

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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MARCH 31, 2004

It's YOUR Newspaper

Book Rental Program May Soon Be Reality

■ Alternative textbook system could save students money.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

California Assembly member Paul Koretz of the 42nd District hopes to alleviate some of the financial pressure on students by initiating a textbook rental library service.

In Koretz's bill, trustees and the governing board of each community college district in the state would be required to set up a rental service for students that would be available by the start of the 2006-2007 academic year.

"We want to structure this program as the most cost-effective and user-friendly," Koretz said. "Hopefully, once the program gets going, students would only pay \$15-to-\$20 per book a semester as opposed to \$50."

Presently, college students pay an average of \$900 per year for textbooks, and publishers engage in market practices that drive up the price, according to a report released by the California Student Public Interest Research Group.

Sociology major Lisa Vose says she is angry that she had to please see *Rental* page 6

Tyree Wieder, Pioneer Woman

■ Valley College president collects Los Angeles City Council award for wide range of community activities.



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR
O PIONEERS! - President Wieder is a winner.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Each March, the Pioneer Women Awards are presented to 15 extraordinary women representing each council district for their outstanding contributions to the community and to improving the status of women in the City of Los Angeles. The award was presented to Valley College President Tyree Wieder Friday at City Hall by the Los Angeles City Council, in con-

please see *Wieder* page 7

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR
ON THE BOARD - The Valley College Monarchs won their first game of the season (1-22) and their first in 39 tries since last year by upsetting the first-place Mission Eagles on the road.

Story, *SPORTS* Page 8

The Return of the Draft?

■ A pair of congressional bills would require two years of active military duty or homeland defense duty of every man and woman aged 18-26.

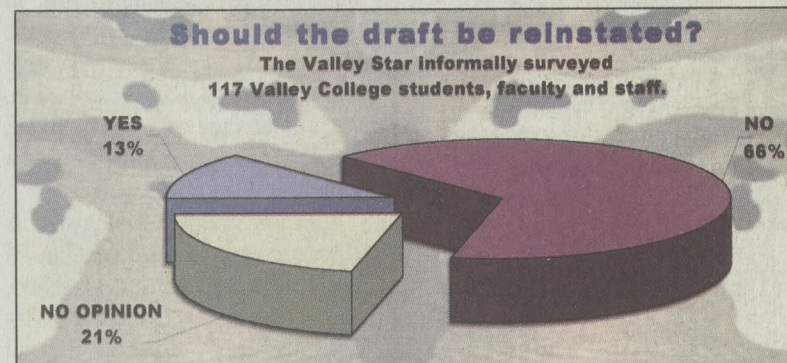
BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The United States Congress halted the draft in 1973 as the divisive war in Vietnam drew to a close. Since then, young men have been required to register for Selective Service, but the system has been essentially inactive.

That could change as early as next year.

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) told Salon.com in November 2003, "The experts are all saying we're going to have to beef up our presence in Iraq. We've failed to convince our allies to send troops, we've extended deployments so morale is sinking and the president says we can't cut and run. So what's left? The draft is a very sensitive subject, but at some point, we're going to need more troops, and at that point, the only way to get them will be a return to the draft."

Rangel and Sen. Fritz Hollings (D-S.C.) introduced a pair of bills last year that would make mandatory two years of active military duty or service in homeland defense for men and women aged 18-26, whether citizens or only permanent resi-



VALLEY SAYS NO - An unscientific poll shows 66 percent of people at Valley College opposed to the reinstatement of the draft.

dents. Hollings' bill, S. 89, and Rangel's, H.R. 163, are together called the "Universal National Service Act" and include in their listings the popular title, the "Reinstate Draft Bill." The two bills are currently sitting in the Armed Services committees of their respective chambers.

In a Jan. 27, 2003 open letter seeking co-sponsorship from their congressional colleagues, Hollings and Rangel cited the heavy use of reserves and National Guardsmen as indicators that a draft would be necessary.

"Both of us are extraordinarily concerned that our military's current capacity would not allow it to fight multiple wars at once," they wrote. "We remain unconvinced by the Department of Defense's claims that the current all-volunteer military can meet any contingency that might arise. We are currently engaged in 14 peacekeeping missions around the globe. With prospects of continued military action in Afghanistan, ... Iraq, the continued war on terrorism and growing tensions in the Korean

peninsula, it becomes clear that we do not have the personnel to fight a multi-theater war."

Defense Sec. Donald Rumsfeld has repeatedly stated that the size of America's all-volunteer fighting forces are sufficient. America's military currently numbers around 1.4 million active servicemen, with about 140,000 currently deployed in Iraq.

Rumsfeld is a longtime proponent of shrinking, not expanding, the pool of U.S. military manpower. In an October letter to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Rumsfeld argued against congressional efforts to add 10,000 troops to the standing total for the purposes of rotation and reinforcement. He said the additional troops would be too costly and take too long to train for use in Iraq.

"The addition of Army end-strength is not a near-term solution to the current stress on the force," Rumsfeld wrote. "It takes a great deal of time to recruit,

please see *Draft* page 6

Not Your Father's Taxes

■ Feeling overwhelmed with April 15 just around the corner? Here are some helpful tax tips for students.

BY KRISTEN PRESCOTT
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It's tax time again, but don't put off filing until the last minute as if it were another term paper. The sooner you file, the sooner you may find yourself with a handful of cash.

"I file my taxes early because I don't want the government using my interest-free loan any longer than necessary," administration of justice major Jeffrey Samuels said.

Filing your taxes need not be a stressful endeavor, and to make things a little easier, here are some tips just for college students.

To file or not to file

You may not be required to file a tax return because you made too little money (defined as \$4,750 or less for dependent students for 2003), and if any taxes were withheld from your paychecks, you are entitled to a refund of all taxes paid, Elaine J. Bryant, senior tax adviser for

H&R Block said. However, you can't get a refund if you don't file a return.

Broadcasting major Matt Fine normally doesn't file a tax return. "I didn't know I could get all my taxes back from the money I make as a counselor," he said.

Bryant also said that many students make the mistake of claiming "exempt" from paying taxes on their W-4s because they think they won't make enough money. If you claim exempt and then make too much money, the Internal Revenue Service will fine you a civil penalty of more than \$500.

Deductions and tax credits for students

Don't forget about special student deductions and tax credits. There are three big ones.

1. The Hope Scholarship credit for freshmen and sophomores can total \$1,500 per year.
2. The Lifetime Learning

credit is worth up to \$2,000 per year.

3. For those who don't qualify for either of those because of their income, the tuition and fees deduction allows you to take off up to \$3,000 of qualified expenses. Keep in mind that "qualified expenses" are generally tuition and fees only. You can't deduct books, supplies or parking permits unless they are required for enrollment at the college, according to the IRS.

Journalism major Adriana Olivarez took advantage of the tuition and fees deduction and filed her taxes early this year. "I tend to procrastinate, and last year I waited until the last minute," she said. "This year I made a resolution to do it as early as possible."

Should your parents claim you as a dependent?

If you're not making a lot

please see *Taxes* page 7

Campus Smokers Defy Signage

■ Posted warnings in designated areas do not deter some from lighting up; Campus police vow to step up ticketing of offenders.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Students caught puffing outside of designated smoking areas at Valley College may face the wrath of the law in this ongoing battle to curb what has become a bothersome issue for many.

Thirty-three bright-red 'No Smoking' signs on the roof of the arcade, building walls and doors have been posted for nearly a year and a half along

the stretch from the math science building to the administration building, yet students continue to light up in those prohibited areas.

Campus security has been issuing verbal warnings in hopes that they can help curb these violations. When repeat-offenders who have already had verbal warnings are caught by campus officers, the next step is to call the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department will then cite the student with a \$75

fine or file an incident report with student services for disciplinary action.

"If we give someone a warning and they are cooperative, it's just a warning," said Randy Tuinstra, head of campus security. "However, if we recognize their face [during another incident], we will take down their name for our records. If they have an uncooperative stance or attitude we

please see *Smokers* page 7

VALLEY PEOPLE

Muro: King of the Monarchs Abdicates

■ Valley's most successful current coach steps down after nine seasons at the college.



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

TERMINATE THEM - Mike Muro was known for the machine-like efficiency of his teams; now he will work in the computer field full time.

BY BOB TEICHMANN
STAFF WRITER

In a move that surprised athletes and coaches alike, Mike Muro, helmsman of Valley's highly successful women's basketball program, said goodbye to his team earlier this month.

"This team means a lot to me, so it's hard to let go," Muro said, "but I'm going to have to."

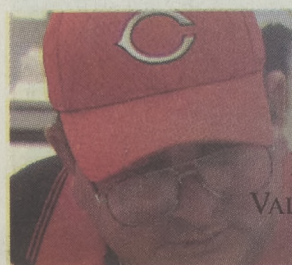
Muro, who has been a part of Lady Monarchs basketball since 1994, has been working in the computer industry equally as long. He works for Terasci

Industries, which has contracts with foreign partners in Thailand, Belgium and a number of other countries.

Due to increased demands on his schedule from the Huntington Beach-based test engineering company, the 42-year-old Muro had little choice but to step down from his coaching position.

"I've been asked to travel," Muro said. "You definitely can't do that if you're trying to run a big program."

please see *Muro* page 9



GALLERY PG. 10
MONARCH SPIRIT
THE DISABLED STUDENT
PROGRAM YIELDS ONE OF
VALLEY'S BIGGEST BOOSTERS



VALLEY LIFE PG. 5
WYOMING TRAGEDY
VALLEY COLLEGIATE PLAYERS
MOUNT CHALLENGING
"LARAMIE PROJECT"



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
INDIE ROCK INVASION
THREE GIGS AT LOCAL CLUBS
SHOW THE BIG GUYS HOW
IT'S DONE



SPORTS PG. 9
NOT A GAME
FORMER VALLEY FOOTBALL COACH
IS DIAGNOSED WITH LEUKEMIA;
NEEDS BONE MARROW

NEWS REEL

BATTLE IN BOSTON: The Massachusetts Legislature approved a constitutional amendment Monday to ban gay marriage and establish civil unions. The measure narrowly passed by a 105 to 92 vote.

The measure must be adopted by both houses of the state legislature during 2005 and could then face voter approval in November 2006. The move is an attempt to overturn current state law legalizing gay marriage that goes into effect on May 17.

9/11 COMMISSION: National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice will be permitted to testify under oath in front of the commission investigating the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 in a compromise deal announced Tuesday by the White House.

Under the agreement, the commission will not seek further testimony from White House officials and Rice's appearance will not set a precedent regarding testimony of future administrations' officials.

ABORTION FIGHT: Three simultaneous trials in U.S. District Courts are underway challenging an act signed by President Bush outlawing partial birth abortions. The act was the first to restrict an abortion procedure since the adoption of Roe v. Wade in 1973.

Abortion rights activists claim the ban fails to take into account the health of the mother and fear it could also ban other abortion procedures, according to court records. Supporters of the ban agree with Bush's assertion that the law will "end an abhorrent practice and continue to build a culture of life in America."

LADY LIBERTY: For the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks and following more than \$30 million in security upgrades, the Statue of Liberty will reopen to visitors this summer, officials announced Tuesday.

CAMPUS EYE

STANFORD SUMMER PROGRAM: Stanford University is offering its first program for undergraduates during the summer.

The Summer Institute is for liberal arts and science undergraduates and will run June 20 - July 26. Students can apply at www.gsb.stanford.edu/si, and deadline is April 1.

FINANCIAL AID / FAFA WORKSHOP: Thursday, April 1, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., (sign-up in the Financial Aid Office).

A.S.U. INTER CLUB COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, April 1, 1 p.m., CC104, A.S.U. Office (call A.S.U. at 818-778-5516 for more information).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE: Monday, April 12, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

CAL STATE L.A. REPRESENTATIVE: Tuesday, April 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 13, 12:45 p.m., CC104, A.S.U. Office (call A.S.U. at 818-778-5516 for more information).

* Students must sign-up in advance in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., room 126, or call Barbara Schneider at (818) 947-2646.

On the Left Side of Your Radio Dial

■ Air America Radio broadcasts a liberal voice in four major U.S. markets.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A new talk radio network launches today in four major cities including Los Angeles. What makes it unique is that, in a medium saturated with such popular and arch-conservative personalities as Rush Limbaugh, Michael Savage and Larry Elder, Air America Radio bills itself as a "progressive radio network."

Among the personalities on its roster are author and comedian Al Franken, actress Janeane Garofalo, "Daily Show" co-creator Lizz Winstead and hip-hop legend Chuck D of Public Enemy. Each of them is scheduled to co-host daily programs covering political commentary, media analysis and non-mainstream culture including musical guests.

Although broadcasts will be tape-delayed beyond the East Coast, there will be live newscasts across the country. And although the content promises to be generally issue-oriented, Air America figures to be different from other

talk networks such as NPR in its reliance on humor — and its unabashed political agenda.

"We have to fight back," wrote Franken in his bestselling "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them," "but we can't fight like they do. The Right's entertainment value comes from their willingness to lie and distort. Ours will have to come from being funny and attractive."

Franken's show, "The O'Franken Factor," is billed as the humorist "taking the fight to America's airwaves — and ... doing it drug-free." Garofalo will host "The Majority Report" weeknights at 8, focusing on "new, younger voices and opinions, with live guests from the world of politics, arts and entertainment," according to a press release.

Another major difference for the fledgling network may be its profitability. Limbaugh is one of the most popular and powerful radio personalities in history and televised political commentary is dominated by the likes of Franken nemesis Bill O'Reilly and Sean

Hannity, although Winstead's "Daily Show" is flourishing with liberal Jon Stewart at the helm.

In an interview with Mediaweek, Air America CEO and former Democratic National Committee executive Mark Walsh said it could be years before the company makes a profit.

"Our business plan doesn't require us to get a whole lot of listeners right away. This is one brick at a time. We think our advertisers will be happy with the listeners we attract."

The other three markets to carry Air America Radio will be New York, San Francisco and Chicago. In Los Angeles, the network purchases time on KBLA (AM 1580).

Live streaming and archives are available at www.airamericanradio.com and the network is currently negotiating with satellite providers.

"Air America" was the name of a secret airline run by the CIA which was instrumental in that agency's smuggling operations in Indochina.

Board Supports Sheriff

■ Board passes Sheriff Lee Baca's tax initiative.

By NAYIBE GULESIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees passed a resolution for the support of the Los Angeles Public Safety and Homeland Security sales tax in hopes of raising new law enforcement funds.

"We voted to support [Sheriff Lee Baca's] efforts to get a measure on the November ballot for public safety because the California tax structure is so inadequate [when it comes] to meeting public needs," said Board of Trustees President Mona Field.

Los Angeles County's sales tax will increase by one-half cent, raising the tax rate to 8.75 percent. Revenue will be earmarked for law enforcement in order to strengthen public safety, homeland security and local anti-terrorism efforts throughout the county.

"Our colleges rely on sheriff's services and city police departments," said Field. "The county will get its share of this revenue, so we will all benefit,

both at our colleges and in our communities, by having more resources for law enforcement."

This was Sheriff Baca's third attempt at getting the initiative passed. In 2002, Sheriff Baca brought the tax initiative to the Board of Supervisors, who unanimously rejected it. In October 2002 the sheriff worked to get the initiative on the ballot, but was unable to collect 2,000 signatures, according to a recent news release.

"We realize that a sales tax increase is a regressive tax and [the Board] would prefer other means to fund such essential needs as education and public safety," Field said. "Sometimes you have to do what's available."

The increased tax plan will generate approximately \$500 million annually for the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department and dozens of smaller agencies. In addition, it will provide communications and specialized equipment for law enforcement personnel throughout Los Angeles County, according to a Board of Trustees report.

please see *Sheriff* page 6

Picture of the Future Emerges

■ Valley Revitalization project moves toward construction phase and painting begins.

By KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

While Valley College's restrooms are being renovated, plans for the rest of the campus speed along to prepare for construction and additional renovations as part of the Revitalizing Valley project, funded by Proposition A and AA, which allocated more than \$200 million to Valley.

"We're doing so many things," said Alix O'Brien, project director for URS, the company overseeing all campus improvements funded by the propositions. O'Brien will be leaving Valley's project within a month to return to a previous project.

Sixteen buildings are scheduled to be painted this year, including: music, theatre arts, administration, campus center, foreign language, physics, chemistry, behavioral science, humanities, engineering, the planetarium, math/science, business/journalism, life science, the stadium and building 78 east of Ethel Avenue.

The painting will begin late summer, according to O'Brien. The college has selected a Mediterranean palette with subtle, warm colors. The theme will incorporate drought-tolerant foliage like sycamore trees and grasses and more open walkways.

Additional restrooms will be renovated this year; in time all restrooms in class buildings and administration will be renovated, except those in the physics and chemistry buildings, which will be torn down to make way for the computer business technology building.

"We've got much of the design started and projects in place," O'Brien said, "Now we're moving into planning for construction. This year is going to be very busy."

Designs for the allied health sciences building will be submitted to the Department of State Architecture in May. The \$31 million AHS building will be located east of the business/journalism building and encompass the area now occupied by the sheriff's office, plant facilities and the first two rows of bungalows.

Biology department chair Karen Roy and earth science-and-anthropology chair Don Gauthier

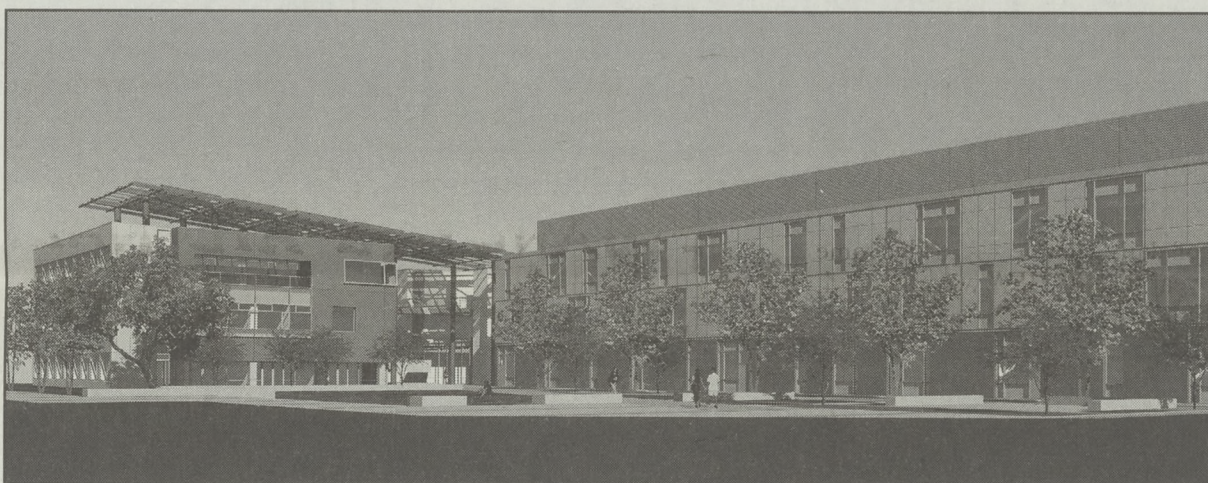


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF ANSHEN & ALLEN ARCHITECTURE
FUTURE PLANS - Artist concept of the new allied health sciences building to be built east of the business/journalism building at the present location of the sheriff's office and plant facilities.

are busy developing plans for the teaching gardens that will be outside the AHS building.

"The concept is to illustrate the biological and environmental aspects of the natural environment," Gauthier said, adding that plantings would represent particular biomes.

The gardens are designed to provide several learning functions, including an animal habitat and several learning modules, soil testing area, archaeological digs, outdoor experiments and water reclamation.

The various environmental settings will provide a hands-on laboratory that students wouldn't have to take time to travel to, according to Roy, which could be used for all scientific disciplines.

"Whether teaching environmental science, biology or earth science we can take students out of a boxed classroom," Roy said, emphasizing the need for students to experience what they learn about.

On the north side of campus, theatre arts will receive new sound equipment—installation should begin this week—and the gallery in the art building is expecting a new ceiling when the plans are approved by the DSA.

Design for the art building courtyard and the one adjacent to Monarch Hall began this month. A contract for renovations to the arts cluster buildings, including music, art and theatre arts, has been negotiated. A schedule has not yet been set for the work.

The parking lot north of the arts building is the site of the future media arts center, which will house

media arts, film, photography, journalism, commercial music, broadcasting and radio.

Classical music classes will be held in the existing music building. Groundbreaking for the maintenance and operations facility is scheduled for fall 2004 and will be located on the southern part of parking lot D.

Programming for the child-care development center will be

submitted for district approval the first week of April. A contract for student services, administration, food services and the information technology core should also be in place next month, according to O'Brien.

Spending through January 2004 is estimated at \$11 million, mainly on design, inspection and testing and management costs, according to O'Brien.

CAMPUS CRIME

Counterfeit Cash Used in Campus Bookstore

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Counterfeit Money

The campus bookstore has detected counterfeit money for the second time this year.

The first incident occurred in January, when a woman came into the bookstore and used a good \$20 bill to purchase a couple of items. The cashier recognized her the next time she came into the bookstore, but this time the \$20 bill she used came under suspicion after the marker used to detect counterfeit money indicated that it was fake.

Claudette Burns, director of the bookstore, said it is store policy to check large-denomination bills with a counterfeit marker pen. Employees additionally run suspicious-looking bills through the bill counter, which also detects counterfeit money.

The Sheriff's Department was called and they detained the woman for questioning. Upon further investigation by the Sheriff's Department and the secret service it was confirmed that the bill was fake - the suspect was then arrested. After

checking records, authorities discovered that the 25-year-old woman was on parole for credit card forgery.

The latest incident occurred last week when a man came into the bookstore to purchase Scantrons and a soda with a \$20 bill. The marker identified the bill as counterfeit. The Sheriff's Department detained and questioned the suspect, who was later released.

Burglary

Five Motorola radios valued at \$400 each and belonging to the motorcycle-training group that is on campus during the weekend, were stolen March 19 from a locked container behind the cafeteria.

Police searched the area but were not able to locate any witnesses. There are approximately 28 people with access to the container.

Parking Permits

Four more parking permits have been reported stolen from various lots around campus. Please remember to lock your doors and make sure your windows are up. Do not leave any valuables in your car.

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For The Record

In the March 24, 2004 issue of The Valley Star, it was incorrectly stated that both outgoing ASU officers were replaced for not maintaining a 2.0 GPA. In fact, former Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs David Muñoz resigned in order to accept admission to Morehouse College in Atlanta.

OPINION

3

Student Advisory Message: Make Sure You Get Your Drugs From the Right Person

By KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Denying financial aid for students with drug offenses is more than just another illogical attack in the war on drugs — it's one of the most backwards punishments possible.

Students are attempting to better themselves in order to be a productive force in society. A provision of the amended Higher Education Act of 1998, which disqualifies students with drug charges, directly prevents some American scholars from achieving such a goal.

Worse yet, the provision targets only low- to middle-income students, affecting far less significantly those who hail from well-off families.

Students are being sent some clear messages: Higher education is for those who can afford it. Consequences are apt to befall those most vulnerable. If you've tried drugs, you're not a candidate for education. And drug use is worse than rape, murder, armed robbery and many other horrible crimes that actually harm society, because those offenders may still apply for federal aid.

According to a 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 59.8 percent of Americans age 18 to 25 have used an illicit drug in their lifetime. The risk of restricting education from such a large chunk of the population is clearly more detrimental than

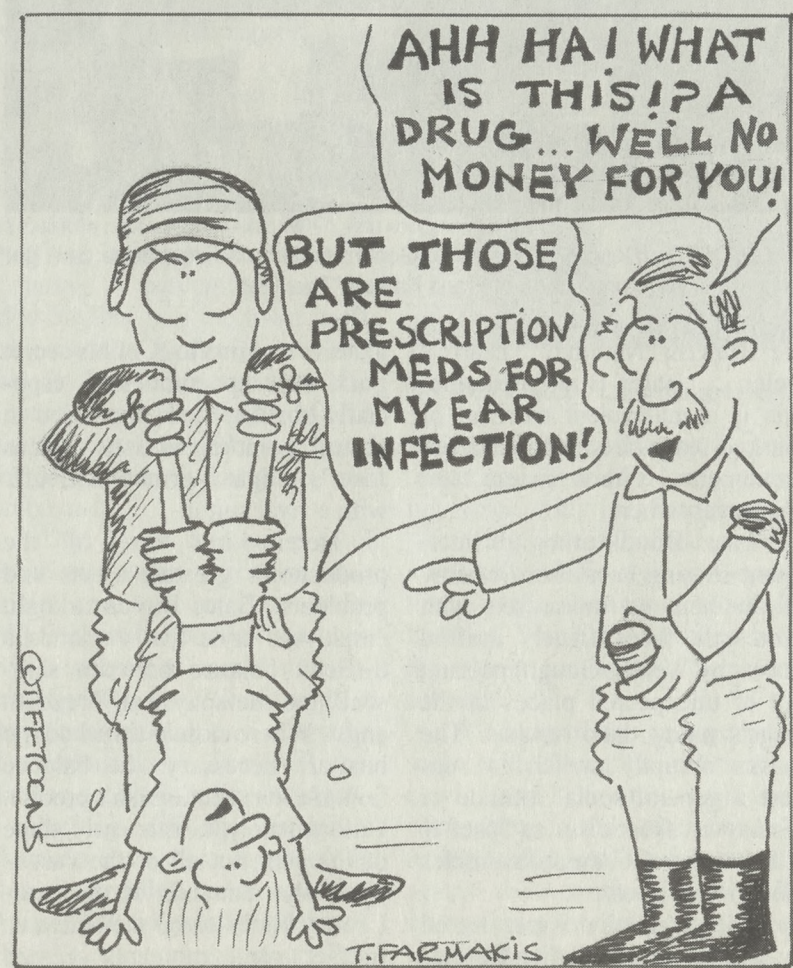
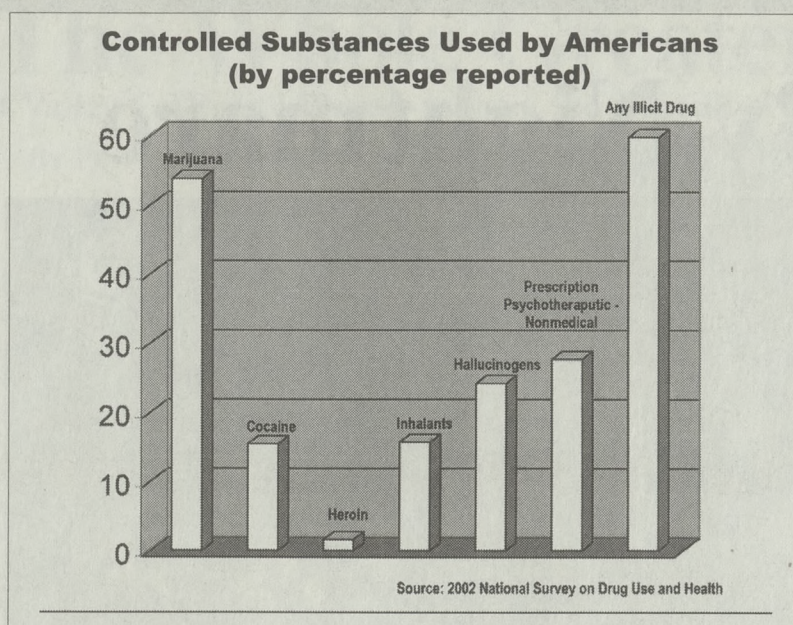
constructive. And a large number of those drug charges include misdemeanors for possession of marijuana — again a relatively harmless crime when held up to so many others.

Yet these messages have been communicated to more than 128,000 potential students in the last six years. Of course this number only represents those who've still bothered to apply knowing they'd be denied, not all the others who left their hopes behind and took a full-time job or another path that didn't fulfill their original aspirations to be educated.

And if you think about it, drug use (hardcore addicts notwithstanding) costs less than a college education, so many of those denied applicants could be sitting in their houses enjoying the high life in so many ways. Textbooks, materials, tuition, travel, time off work for class requirements ... it adds up quickly and will tower over many a drug user's comparatively small list of expenses.

It seems that this nasty little provision actually encourages thousands to stay far, far away from those college campuses.

There is a sad, pathetic and hypocritical method to this higher education madness. Especially when the legal drug-giving of America has become part of daily routine — in the same year that the HEA was amended, children were prescribed antidepressants 1,664,000 times.



"FINANCIAL AID NAZI"

ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

To Whom Does Newdow Pledge Allegiance?

By KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

Michael Newdow believes it is wrong that in the Pledge of Allegiance the words "Under God" are used. The doctor and lawyer has taken his complaint to the Supreme Court.

Several years ago, according to Newdow, he happened to look at his money and noticed the statement "In God We Trust" on it. He wondered how the government could get away with printing those words and decided to contest it in court as a breach of the Constitutional separation of church and state.

When he realized that his chance of success was slim for this case, he decided he would fare better if he disputed the Pledge of Allegiance.

He has a solid point. Printing religious statements on money is not a separation of church and state. Nor is pledging allegiance to our country "Under God." These are just more ways to tell the American people what to believe.

His arguments against the Pledge are not what I have a problem with. His methods are.

He filed as the parent of a 9-year-old child who was being led by her teacher to recite the pledge. Never mind that his daughter is being raised Christian by a Christian mother. Never mind that his child has expressed no objections to reciting the Pledge.

Michael Newdow objected. "I am an atheist. I don't believe in God. And every school morning, my child is asked to stand up, face that flag,

put her hand on her heart and say that her father is wrong," Newdow said in an article in the Los Angeles Times.

And yet, he is O.K. with teaching his daughter that her mother is wrong.

Sandra Banning, the mother, took her plea to a Sacramento court, convincing a state judge to remove her daughter as a party to the case.

Without his daughter, Newdow is now faced with proving how the Pledge has harmed him directly.

"She [Banning] is now a hero, the great protector of the pledge," Newdow said sardonically.

How can Newdow look himself in the eye after involving his 9-year-old daughter in an extremely controversial case (he has received death threats due to this endeavor) that needlessly put her in the media spotlight?

Newdow claimed that Banning intervened in the case because she "wants control." How is looking out for the best interests of your child controlling?

A 9-year-old is too young to be faced with the kind of attention this case has garnered.

It leaves me wondering if Newdow is pursuing this as a backhanded attack on Banning, and if Newdow is fulfilling his allegiance to his daughter.

With the turns the Pledge case will inevitably take — the controversy it will stir — I think there are better candidates to lead this fight. I would hate to see a cause like this lost due to the dissemination of the reasons behind filing the claim.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: SHOULD SMOKING BE BANNED ON BEACHES?

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at www.lavalleystar.com

A Breath of Fresh Air

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Before I get into this I have a confession—I am a smoker. And I'm not one of those hoity-toity quitters who views smokers as pariah. I've been stared down, banished to the outdoors, "tsk-tsk-ed" and have endured a gazillion lectures from my mother and my doctor. Call me a fool.

It's a known fact that cigarette smoking is a leading cause of cancer and heart disease — although many cigarette companies may still deny their product has any link to these diseases.

The Center for Disease Control reports that approximately 440,000 people die of cigarette-related illnesses each year in the United States alone, and the annual health-related economic losses are nearly \$157 billion dollars.

Solana Beach is a sleepy little town in San Diego. There's nothing particularly special about this beachside community with the exception that this little speck on the map was the first in California to ban smoking in bars and restaurants in 1991, according to the town's Mayor Tim Golich. It's also the first city in the continental United States to ban smoking on its beaches since October — after a group of high school kids known as the Youth Tobacco Prevention Corps picked up nearly 6,400 cigarette butts from the beach and presented their case to city hall.

Sleepy, I think not. Trendsetting, I think so,—now that San Clemente has voted 3-1 to adopt the ban and Santa Monica recently won initial

approval to adopt the same non-smoking beach policy in an effort to curb air pollution and litter.

Anti-smoking activists are wooing several other beach communities from San Diego to Newport Beach, in hopes that they will come on board and adopt the ban as well.

Airlines, restaurants and bars have all banned smoking from their establishments, making them friendly for all and as far as I know, no one has died from not having a cigarette for a few hours.

The no-brainer ban at public playgrounds should have always existed. When my kids were young enough to play there many parents never gave it a thought as they lit up their smokes. It would have been simpler to just hand these kids a pack of cigarettes and matches and let them go at it.

Those folks out there who say the government has no right

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC ...
So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

to place restrictions on smokers at the beach are just plain wrong. Non-smokers have the right to enjoy an unpolluted environment. They have a right to sit on one of our glorious beaches with their children without having to move away from someone who is smoking. It's not martial law; it's just common sense. It may even turn out to be a life-saving blessing.

My kids and I spend a great deal of time at the beach in the summer and it will be refreshing knowing the only butts on the beach will be wearing bathing suits. The only downside to this ban is that we will no longer be able to use the butts we find to make fences around our sandcastles.

The Ban Is Discrimination

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

To smoke or not to smoke, is that the question?

Ten years after California set a national precedent by banning smoking in restaurants and bars and months after prohibiting it within feet of government buildings and playgrounds, many of the state's coastal cities are now banning smoking at the beach.

Health and environmental officials say the moves are a logical extension of smoking bans in other public places and are necessary to meet state and federal antipollution requirements.

I don't smoke, but I also don't believe I have a right to tell someone not to smoke. Smoking is considered socially unacceptable, but a ban like this undermines a person's basic and sacred freedom of choice. Here's a news flash: Americans still smoke, even with all the

warnings, all the expense and all the rules and regulations.

Nevertheless activists and health officials point to statistics. Only 17 percent of Californians are estimated to smoke, and, according to Environmental Protection Agency data, 50,000 lives are claimed each year from second-hand (passive) smoke.

However, in a recent survey by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which followed smokers and their spouses for nearly 40 years, it found no increased risk of death from passive smoking associated with coronary heart disease or lung cancer, despite widely reported links. However, for the smokers themselves, the risk was clear, the report said.

CRS researchers Dr. James Enstrom of the School of Public Health, UCLA, and Prof. Geoffrey Kabat of the Department of Preventive Medicine, State University of New York, say in the British

Medical Journal that "the association between passive smoke and coronary heart disease and lung cancer may be considerably weaker than generally believed."

Increased risk of lung cancer from passive smoking has been estimated at 20 percent and, for heart disease, at 30 percent.

The researchers say: "Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke could not plausibly cause a 30 percent increase in risk of coronary heart disease. It seems premature to conclude that environmental tobacco smoke causes death from coronary heart disease and lung cancer."

Surprisingly, the study is backed by anti-smoking crusader Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, an epidemiologist and president of the American Council on Science and Health.

Whelan, author of "A Smoking Gun: How the Cigarette Industry Gets Away with Murder," said, in an article by the New York Post, her group's research had reached the same conclusion.

"There is simply no convincing evidence linking secondhand smoke to lung cancer and heart disease," she said.

Whether or not tobacco products are seen as dangerous substances or social taboos, the bottom line is they are still legal and we should not discriminate against a person based on what he or she chooses to do.

We live in a country that embraces freedom. If you don't like that person smoking next to you on the beach, then move to another area. You are free to do so.

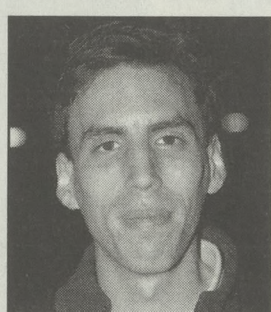
Campus View

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD



"I think it's a good idea because I don't want to find cigarette butts in the sand."

- Way Yu



"I believe if smoking is a serious health hazard and environmental hazard, then it should be banned."

- Rachid Bouhamidi



"I'm against it because it's a free country and our rights don't need to be taken away."

- Melissa O'Connell



"Smoking is otherwise legal and I don't understand what damage is stopped by banning it on beaches."

- Eric Oswald

How do you feel about banning smoking on public beaches?


WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 31

No Events Scheduled


THURSDAY, MARCH 25

EDITOR'S PICK

 A Perfect Circle and The Mars Volta Long Beach Arena 6 p.m. \$29.50

Some of you know him as the frontman for Tool and nothing more. The truth is lead singer Maynard James Keenan and his overpowering voice are now part of A Perfect Circle. Don't expect old favorites like 'H' and 'Schism,' but be sure that two promising albums under their belt and electrifying guitar from former Smashing Pumpkin James Iha will intensify the evening. Opening act The Mars Volta are sure to set the tone as these mind boggling Texans take it to another level with space rock sounds and a light show worth your price of admission.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

 The Strokes and The Sounds Universal Amphitheater 8:15 p.m. \$29.50

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

No Events Scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

No Events Scheduled

MONDAY, MARCH 29

No Events Scheduled

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

No Events Scheduled

New Music Releases:

Broken Social Scene
BEEHIVES

Eric Clapton
Me and Mr. Johnson

Bob Dylan
The Bootleg Vol. 6
Live 1964 at the
Philharmonic Hall

Dizzy Gillespie
Anthology

Sigur Ros
Ba Ba Ti Ki Di Do

Snow Patrol
Final Straw

The Vines
Winning Days

The Von Bondies
Pawn Shoppe Heart

THEATER REVIEW

'Trial' By Nightmare

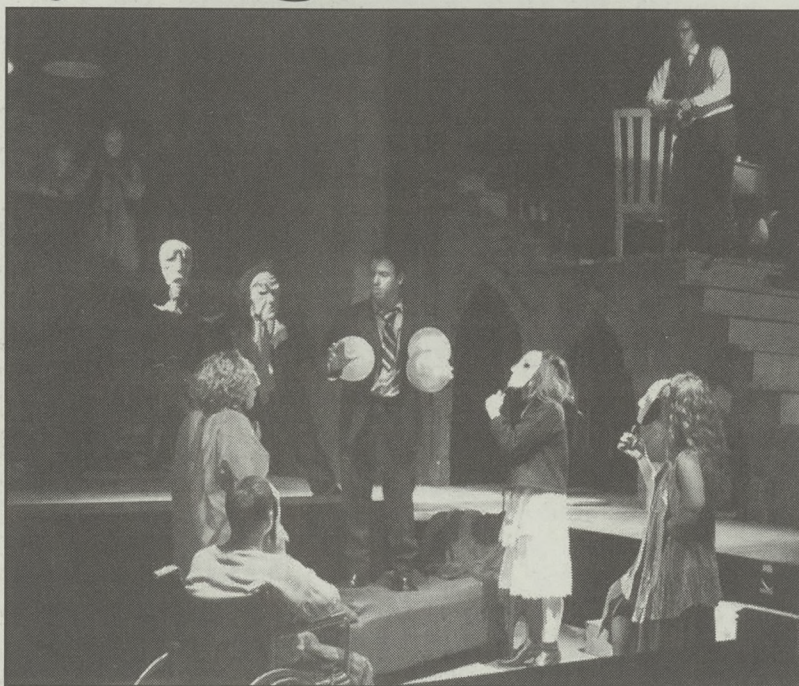
■ Write Act Rep's Kafka adaptation is an evil circus of paranoia and oppression.

BY MICHAEL ORDONA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For those who have somehow escaped familiarity with the writings of Franz Kafka, think of a metaphysical George Orwell or an even more hopeless, absurd version of the 1960s cult TV show, "The Prisoner." Kafka's universe is ruled by an unseen hand that is usually clenched into a fist. In his 1925 novel "The Trial," the state is omnipotent and an arbitrary, punitive god at that.

"The Trial" finds an everyman, Josef K, waking on his birthday to find himself accused of an unnamed crime. He is informed by plainclothes police that he is under arrest and will have to stand trial on this secret charge, but should go about his business nonetheless. What unfolds is a deeply metaphorical mystery in which Josef realizes the seriousness of his situation while trying to define his 'crime' or identify his accuser. Everywhere he goes, everyone seems to know more than he does, but no one seems willing or able to help. The trail is littered with obscure 'clues' and passwords in a secret, swirling world. It's a definitively Kafkaesque nightmare.

Write Act Repertory Company's production, working from an adaptation by Jean-Louis Barrault and Nobel Prize-winning French modernist André Gide, is plainspoken and imaginative, with a fascinating multi-level set (by Robert Howeth) and dingy costumes (by Becky Hoffman) that capture the discomfort and claustrophobia of the story. Wet laundry and suggestively-shaped portals pollute the environment. As helmed by



COURTESY OF WRITE ACT REPERTORY COMPANY
FACE/OFF - Joseph K (Christopher Goodman) is on a ride that he can't get off in Write Act's production of Franz Kafka's "The Trial."

the Turkish National Theatre's Aclan Bates-Buyukturkoglu, this is a malevolent carnival of masked eavesdroppers, stylized movements, circus music and spies everywhere.

Bates-Buyukturkoglu's intelligent staging uses every cranny of the haunted house set, with grotesque faces (finely crafted masks by Wendy Gough) peering out of unexpected places in the stage's many dark reaches. The masks abruptly switch to suggest a general social attitude of dismay or skepticism as Josef K (Christopher Goodman) stumbles along in his quest.

The production is permeated by a poisonous sexuality. Several of the women K encounters are voracious creatures whose bites inflict damage. One of the only emotional moments in the show comes when one such maneater's husband (John Jeffrey Soroka) admits to rage and shame over his wife's conduct. The rest of the time, illicit temptations seem

to serve as hints to K of his secret guilt. Pent-up emotions - especially hostility - are expressed in absurd, pointless motions such as Josef's alligator-armed fisticuffs with a rival suitor.

Herein lies one of the production's greatest assets and problems. Bates-Buyukturkoglu employs a style that demands a difficult balance between slapstick and metaphysical, Freudian angst. Where closely timed comic bits are necessary, the balance fails if the execution isn't precise. Unfortunately, at this early stage of the run, not all of the cast is up to the demands of the near-Looney Tunes-sized shenanigans. In fact, some moments seemed under-rehearsed with a certain emotional truth missing, as actors rushed to their marks. K's plight is diminished as a result.

There's an "After Hours" quality to the production's circus atmosphere, a purely theatrical

please see *Trial* page 6

RIAA Keeps the Heat on College Students

■ RIAA President Cary Sherman discusses the issues regarding 532 cases brought forth last week.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Recording Industry Association of America launched another offensive in its legal war to protect the interests of major record companies by halting the illegal distribution of music within peer-to-peer networks, seeking fines on 532 file-sharers, including 89 individuals at 21 different universities.

"Obviously, college students are a big part of the problem," said RIAA president Cary Sherman during a recent online college press conference. "Therefore, it was only a question of time before university users would be named as defendants."

In the past year, the music industry has gone through a sea changes, including the 30 percent price break issued by Universal, the world's largest record company, and encouragement of listeners by online resources such as iTunes and Rhapsody to sample before they download and purchase tracks for 99 cents. The first wave of lawsuits last year had a greater impact than expected but the piracy level on college campuses remains high.

"I think it's essential that the higher education community has a complete understanding of what we're about on the online piracy issue and why we're taking the actions we are," said Sherman. "Ever since mp3 became a popular format, we've all wanted a really vibrant online music experience. I'm really pleased that the online music services available today provide just that great quality, great selection, reliability, security and compensation to the artists, songwriters and others

who brought that music to life."

College students are the main targets as campuses across America continue to provide students access to thousands of files through peer-to-peer file sharing networks. Sherman cited record store closures, jobs lost and artists' royalties slipping away. Still, illegal downloading wouldn't seem to be nearing its end any time soon.

"For music fans to get the online experience that the Internet can deliver, there needs to be an environment in which legitimate businesses can flourish," Sherman said. "That means bringing piracy under sufficient control that it doesn't hurt the prospects for legal e-commerce. We lost about a third of our sales in just 3 years."

"Record stores were closing by the thousands (and stores near college campuses were especially hard hit). Thousands of label employees lost their jobs. Artist signings plummeted. And songwriter royalties were half of what they had been."

Public opinion has shifted from last year when many people were opposed to the lawsuits against illegal downloading. According to Peter Hart Associates for the RIAA, 56 percent of the public is 'supportive and understanding' of the current lawsuits involving college students. With more than 400 cases won and none lost so far, the RIAA is confident that settlements will continue this year, hopefully without any going to trial again.

For more information and a complete transcript of the interview go to: <http://www.cpwire.com/archive/2004/3/23/1540.asp> or [RIAACOM](http://www.riaa.com).

CONCERT REVIEWS

Indie Bands Storm Three Los Angeles Clubs

Kamana
El Rey Theater
25 March 2004

BY CHELSEA BANKS
STAFF WRITER

The \$12 admission was a small price to pay to see the fresh new band Ka Mana (a Hawaiian

term which means "spiritual power" or "magic") at the El Rey Theater last Friday night.

The guys from Ka Mana provided positive vibes and friendly humor. When asked how they would describe their music, each of them have a different take.

"Modern rock with a little ethnicity to it," said Kai Mattoon,

the lead singer.

"Organic Rock" is how the bassist, Andy Murabito, describes their sound.

Perhaps their sound is best described by the drummer, Dave Stalker, "I would say we try to blend heavy with melodic and we want to move people. So we always want to be melodic and beautiful, even if the vehicle is more heavy and crunchy."

However you choose to describe the Wichita, Kansas quartet formed in California, just don't miss the message they are trying to convey.

"Inspiration is a good thing," said Mattoon. "That's my thing. I want to see the world be beautiful. So, pretty much my goal is: every single place make somebody smile, make somebody want to do something they wouldn't do before."

One of the band's main goals is to send a positive message while staying true to themselves and their music.

"[The music is] very real. There's nothing fake about it because we do what we like," said Russell Ali, the guitarist.

The hard rock foursome certainly knows how to work the crowd. Not only is their sound infectious, but their vitality is contagious. They sparked the energy flow with their first song

of the night, "And This Time." Even their calmer songs contain a sharp current. "Calypso," the captivating crowd pleaser, which is performed differently at the end of every show, rhythmically chants, *One little beat and everything changes, so let the rhythm just set you free.* Few could refrain from doing just that. The audience was were "rockin' out" and got lost in the beat of the music.

The yet to be signed band has a demo they hand out for free after their performances, as well as a couple of tracks to download from the media section of their website www.kamanamusic.com. Their site also includes a list of tour dates so you can catch their next performance.

Modest Mouse and Helio Sequence
Henry Fonda Music Box
24 March 2004

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The indie rock scene has taken control of the college audience.

The days of taking bong rips and listening to Neil Young on that new Yamaha tape deck are no longer with us. Well, classic rock and bong rips may still be

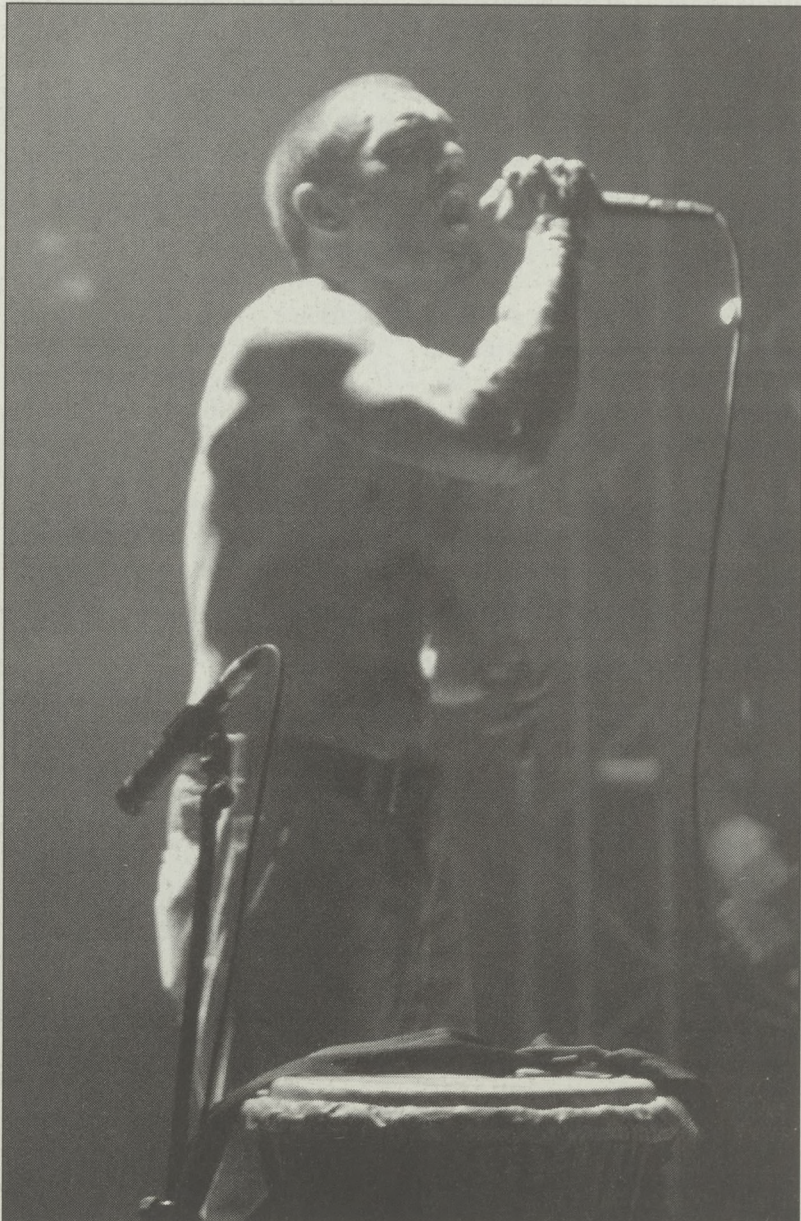
in the basement somewhere, but the new wave of music hitting college radio stations and local independent record stores is climbing up the walls and creeping into our aural fondness.

Bands such as Interpol, Twilight Singers and Franz Ferdinand are storming listeners' homes and favorite local venues. Last week, Northwest natives The Helio Sequence and Modest Mouse tore up the Music Box at Henry Fonda Theater in Hollywood. Their show set the bar high for acts coming through the Los Angeles music scene in the near future.

A sold-out crowd gathered for one thing - good music - and that's what they got. Various ages and looks filled the Music Box for Brandon Summers and Benjamin Weikel of the Portland-based Helio Sequence. The two have been on tour with Modest Mouse since Mouse drummer Jeremiah Green quit over a difference of opinion with lead singer Isaac Brock. Weikel has been drumming for both bands the past year.

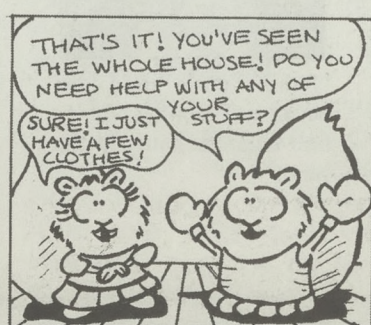
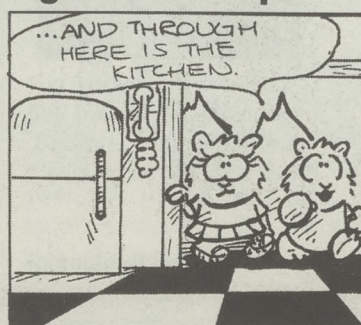
Space-rock sounds and trippy keyboard samples give these Portland music gurus a sound of their own. These two, who eat, sleep and drink music, have left

please see *Concerts* page 6



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR
LIVE AND LOUD - Kamana lead singer displays his emotions at The El Rey.

Fight Like a Squirrel



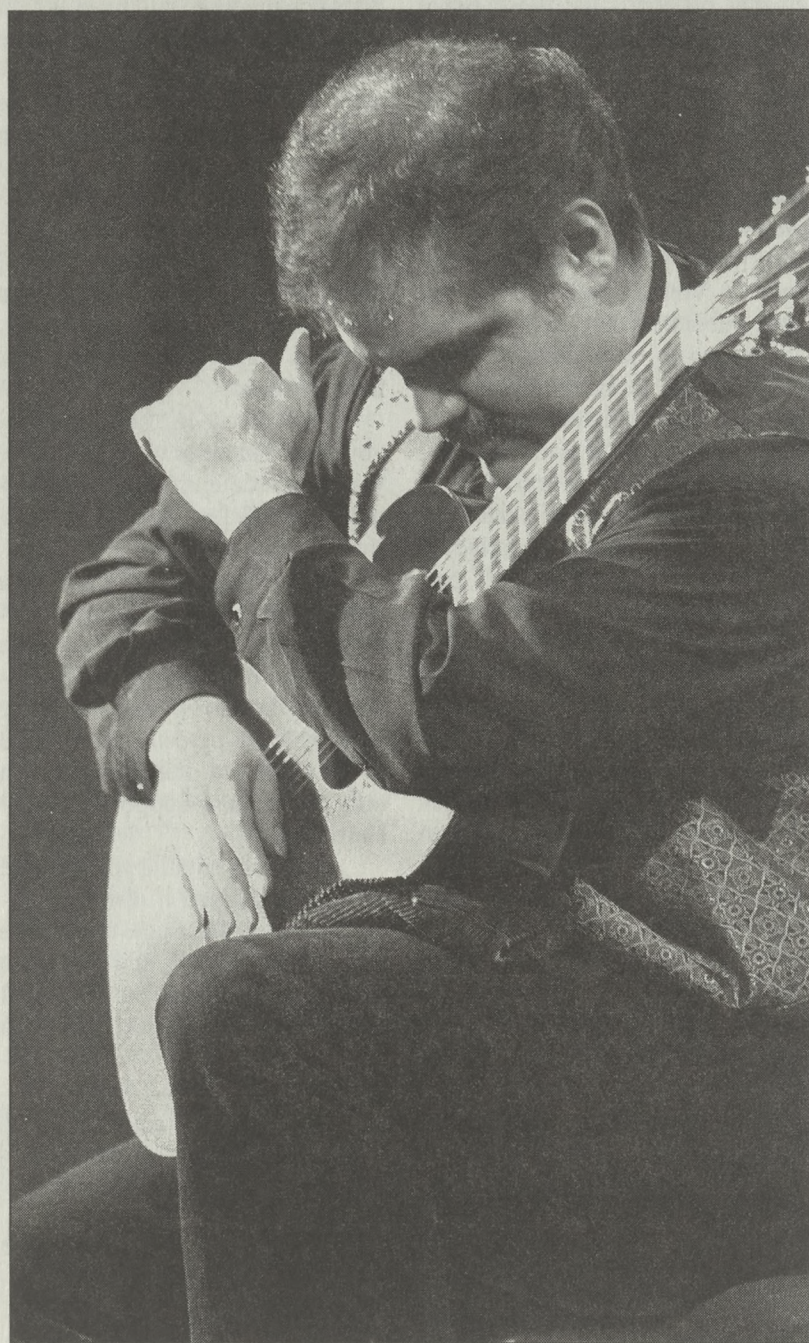
TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON



VALLEY LIFE

5

VALLEY CONCERTS



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

PASSIONATE PAUSE - Ricardo Cobo performed a soulful concert March 26 to a full audience in the Music Recital Hall.

Cobo Returns to Valley College

■ Classical guitarist Ricardo Cobo offers an old sound for a new generation.

By TAMMY ABBOTT
STAFF WRITER

For the fifth time since 1988, Ricardo Cobo gracefully transformed the Music Recital Hall into his own intimate "Musical Hacienda" Friday night.

"Ricardo Cobo has a lot of soul," said Robert Mayeur, director of the Guitar Ensemble, as he looked around the full hall and anticipated the performance.

The program consisted of compositions from 19th and 20th century composers such as Napoleon Coste, Jorge Morel and Astor Piazzolla. Cobo masterfully produced a wide range of tonalities, styles and exquisite nuances with confidence and ease.

Some audience members listened with their eyes closed, others looked to be daydreaming and there were those who watched every move Cobos' skillful hands made as he played to inspire as well as entertain.

Valley biology major Aisha Morgan is currently studying classical guitar and expressed her growing interest in not only learning a wonderful new skill and instrument, but striking a complimentary balance between math and music. "I wish I could play like that," Morgan said.

Ricardo Cobo has won numerous prestigious awards around the world and currently serves on the artist's faculty of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

A Piano Favorite

■ Award-winning pianist Lucy Nargizyan fills the Music Recital Hall with beautiful sound.

By CHelsea BANKS
STAFF WRITER

The Music Recital Hall filled quickly last Thursday to hear pianist Lucy Nargizyan, first prize winner at both the Armenian Allied Arts Association Competition and the MTAC Piano Duo Competition.

Nargizyan opened with Beethoven's "Sonata, Op. 31 No. 3," delivered with bright-eyed enthusiasm and a smile.

The first movement, "Allegro," went from being intense to light and playful. The second, "Scherzo," was light, cheery, quick and lively. The third movement, "Menuetto," worked through troubled moods, but then returned to lightheartedness.

Later on, Nargizyan played No. 8 F minor, No. 21 B flat Major and No. 6 B minor from

"Preludes, Op. 11" by Alexander Scriabin. The first two were light and calming, followed by the loud and dramatic No. 6.

Sharing her appreciation for jazz, Nargizyan played "Memories of Tomorrow" by Keith Jarrett. It was a slightly sad tune kept upbeat only by the sprinkling of high notes.

Nargizyan ended the early afternoon show with "Capriccio" by Arno Babadjanian, an Armenian composer. The song contained elements of jazz even though it was based on an Armenian folk song.

After each piece, the pianist stood, took a bow and nodded, smiling as if to say, "Yes, I enjoy it too." When she finished the last piece there were howls of appreciation and a standing ovation.



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The Whole Greater Than Some Parts

■ Valley Collegiate Players take on the difficult "Laramie Project" with mixed results.

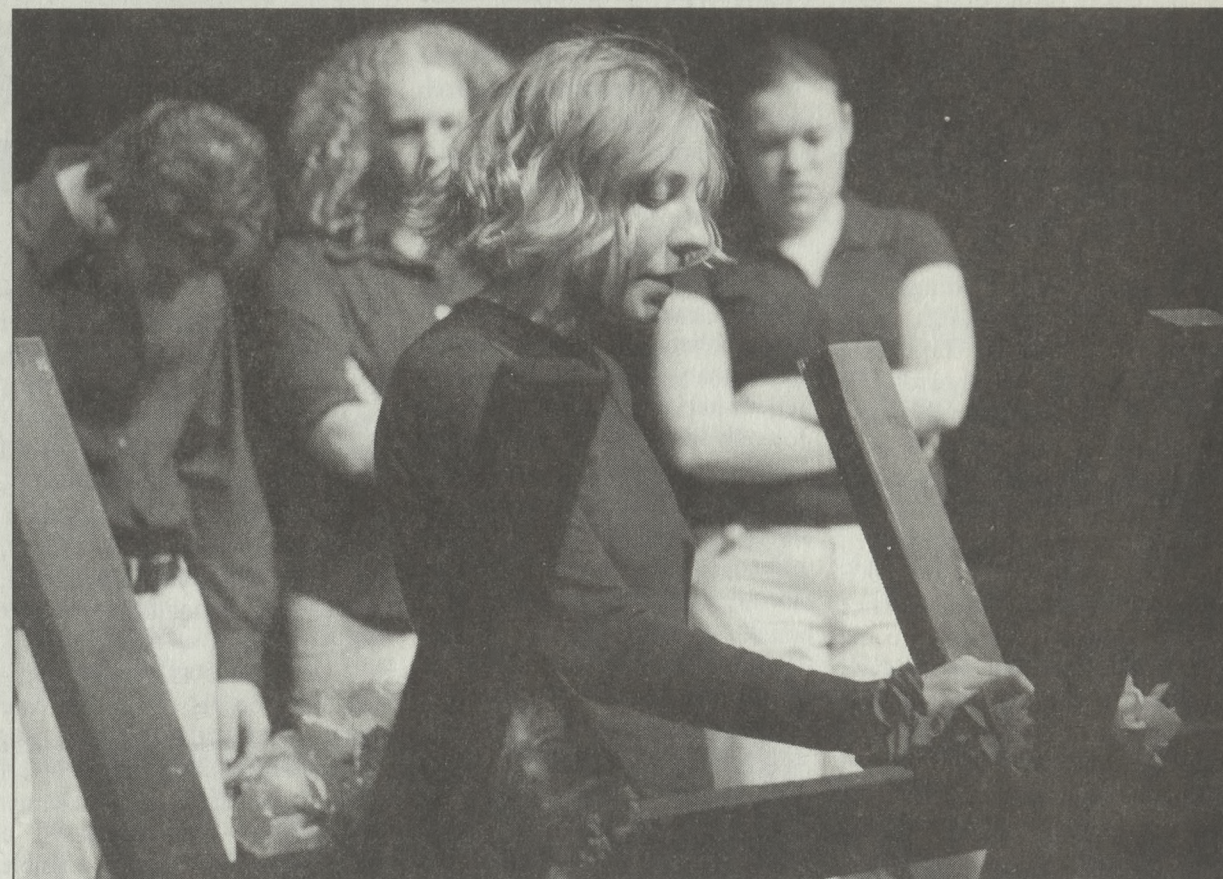
By PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

"The Laramie Project" is a daunting task to undertake for the most seasoned and best funded of acting companies. In three acts, the play recounts the aftermath of the brutal murder of a gay teenager named Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming as related through more than 200 interviews with town residents. The Valley Collegiate Players, a student-run theatrical troupe, performed the play's roughly 70 roles with only 12 actors, confining a whole town within the small workspace of the Horseshoe Theater.

Those represented in the play come from all walks of life: Shepard's family and friends, the killers' families and friends, townsfolk and reporters from all over the country. The script is a mosaic of perceptions and the glue binding it is the town itself, which serves as the closest thing the play has to a protagonist. This approach by playwright Moises Kaufman and his collaborators on the script is both intriguing and problematic.

That it is a memory play of an unusual stripe - from multiple angles and regarding true events still fresh in the public consciousness - makes it of immediate interest. However, the lack of narrative thrust and demands on a cast make it an uphill climb. The VCP production succeeds in fits and starts.

Pulling off the continual character changes most gracefully were Sean Schwartz as murderer Aaron McKinney and hired driver, Doc O'Connor, among other roles; Pam Youngblood impressively displayed comedic and dramatic skill; Julia Goretsky handled



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

FATAL FENCE - Laramie residents return to the fence where Matthew Shepard was found.

smaller roles with spark and charm and revealed a lovely singing voice with her rendition of "Amazing Grace." Schwartz, with a settled, realistic style and emotional range, shows real promise. Each of Youngblood's roles had the viewer anticipating her next entrance.

A compelling arraignment scene with Shepard's killers was moving and believable - as if you were sitting in the courtroom listening to the horrible accusations against these savage murderers. It was at this point that the cast came together beautifully.

VCP newcomer Oleg Kagan had his finest moments as Dr. Cantway and Steve Taylor did his

best work as a housebound gay man watching Shepard's parade of supporters file past his own home. Other cast members did their level best but largely failed to generate deep emotional impact - such as a disappointingly flat courtroom proclamation to McKinney by Shepard's father or unfortunately non-authoritative preaching by the notoriously gay-hating Rev. Fred Phelps.

Opening night jitters may be to blame for foul-ups in lines and poor stage etiquette. Frequent backstage clatter drew attention away from an already hard-to-follow show in which cast members often missed cues - adding to the show's choppy and making it

all the more difficult for the actors to listen and react to one another. Also, the show's generally funereal tone could have used some other colors to help bear its three-hour length.

Still, the message was delivered and the vicious murder of this young man serves as something far more than an evening's entertainment. Shepard's dear friend, Romaine Patterson, continues the struggle against homophobia and gay-bashing as a prominent radio personality. The incident has led to a number of laws levying stiff penalties for hate crimes. If, as Shepard once said to his friends, he was destined to end up in Laramie, perhaps his ultimate fate

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'Draft'

continued from page 1

train, organize and equip new forces."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) responded to inquiries on the topic by referring to those and other remarks of Rumsfeld's, telling The Valley Star last week, "Recently, Secretary Rumsfeld addressed calls for the possible reinstatement of the draft ... stating that the military's active and reserve forces are of sufficient numbers and quality to meet their requirements. Consequently, the Department of Defense has no plans to ask permission for Congress to institute a military draft."

However, the Hollings and Rangel bills remain in play, a national effort to staff local Selective Service boards is underway and the Army National Guard and Army Reserve have about one-fourth of their troops — nearly 129,000 soldiers — on active duty.

A September 2003 Congressional Budget Office report stated that the Army could not maintain current troop levels in Iraq "beyond about March 2004 if it chose not to keep individual units deployed to Iraq for longer than one year without relief." As a result, reserve soldiers are now more frequently used in combat missions rather than for their traditional support roles.

Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) said the report is "quantified evi-

dence that the long-term occupation is straining our forces close to the breaking point."

Speculation that U.S. troop strength is being stretched thin was further fueled by the November 2003 issuance of sweeping "stop-loss" orders, prohibiting servicemen from quitting their units 90 days before deployment or after returning home. Soldiers who have been shifted out of Iraq, especially reservists and National Guardsmen, have often found themselves re-deployed to the region within the 90-day window. Additionally, they are barred from leaving the service without logging 12 months on the ground. After that, the three-month window begins.

Troop retention has emerged as a troublesome factor. Recruitment in 2003 yielded roughly 100,000 new soldiers, or only 33 percent more than would be needed to relieve half of the current fighting force in Iraq alone. Re-enlistment figures are down, especially in the Army Reserve. Morale is low enough that 22 U.S. soldiers committed suicide in Iraq last year, according to Pentagon statistics.

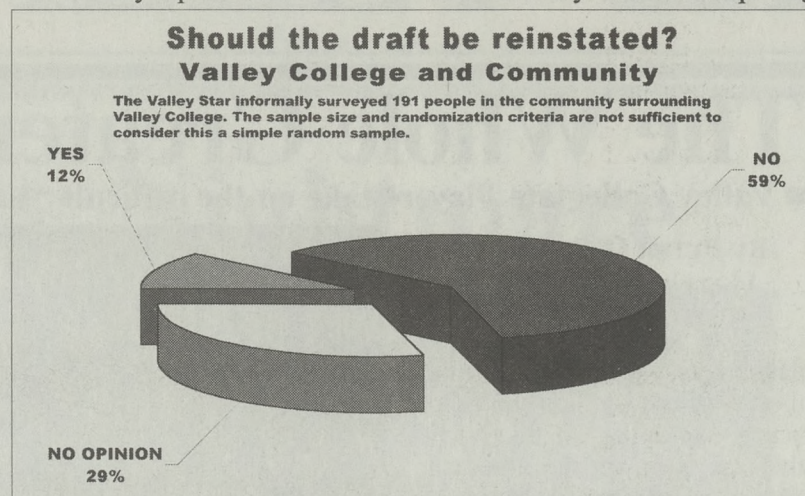
Lieutenant General James Helmly, chief of the 250,000-member Army Reserve, told USA Today that, "Retention is what I am most worried about. It is my number one concern. This is the first extended-duration war the country has fought with an all-volunteer force."

One Valley College student who served in Iraq said he got out of the Army because he didn't

believe in the cause. "I was there for two months and got myself discharged 'for reasons other than honorable,'" said the veteran, who identified himself only as "Gary." "They don't have a plan. Period."

A key provision of the

aggressive recruitment of students and to oppose a draft. We should be working to eventually eliminate draft registration for men, not contemplating requiring it of women in the name of fair treatment, and certainly not contemplating



Universal National Service Act would be the inclusion of women as draftees, something that Democratic presidential candidates John Kerry and Howard Dean have both supported.

One female Valley student, nursing major Nicole Hernandez, said, "[It's O.K., but] for men only, because I personally wouldn't want to go."

The sponsors and prominent co-sponsors of the bills are Democrats. In November 2003, however, recent Democratic presidential candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) released a statement critical of the possible reinstatement of the draft: "The toll of deaths and injuries to our troops is rising in Iraq. Now it is urgent to oppose the Pentagon's

implementing it for the sake of the occupation of Iraq or any other 'preemptive' war for corporate profit."

Noting that the armed forces tend to be disproportionately populated by blacks and Latinos and those on the bottom end of the earning scale, Rangel seeks to eliminate loopholes such as college attendance in order to socioeconomically balance military service.

Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) told The Star last week, "To reinvigorate the feeling that 'we're all in this together,' I support a program of universal national service, similar to that proposed in H.R. 163. This would require young people from all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds

- without exception - to spend two years serving our country in some capacity. It could involve military service, or service in the Peace Corps, Americorps, VISTA or some other organization dedicated to protecting our nation or improving the public welfare. At the conclusion of service, generous assistance should be provided for college or vocational training (or to pay off loans for those [who] have completed their education)."

"It's not fair that only the poor people go over there and die," said Hermine Von Friesen, a 76-year-old computer science major, "When we're in a war we shouldn't make it so tough on the people who are already over there." Von Friesen called the well-publicized stories of families struggling to raise funds in order to purchase interceptor vests to replace the outdated equipment given to soldiers "disgusting."

At Valley, reaction to the possibility of draft reinstatement was overwhelmingly negative in an informal survey, with 63 percent voicing opposition (versus 13 percent in favor). That reaction was not limited to draft-age respondents, although only six of those surveyed who supported reinstatement were between 18-26. The most frequent comments concerned having the right to choose whether to fight and the desire for other countries to share the burden.

"I'm against the war to begin with," said Valley student Traci Thrasher. "I'd rather our troops came home and the U.N. got

involved."

Rep. Berman, who voted in support of the resolution to go to war in Iraq and also supports H.R. 163, told The Star, "A convincing argument can be made that the world is a better place without Saddam Hussein's brutal and aggressive regime. However, had I [known] in September 2002 what we all know today - that Iraq does not appear to still have WMD - I'm not sure that I would have voted that way."

Most of the affirmative responses were tied to civic responsibility, although many were specifically related to immigrants serving in the military.

"Why should [immigrants] come to the U.S. and get a free ride?" asked Coco Dishigrikyan, business major. "Make them earn their freedom."

"You live in our country, you're provided for by our country, you should defend it," said biology major David Lee, "and it's a fast track to citizenship."

When expanding the data sample to the neighboring community (191 respondents), the opposition response fell to 55 percent, but the "no opinion" response jumped to 34 percent (as opposed to 29 percent at the college) with only 11 percent supporting reinstatement.

A much smaller percentage of those surveyed in the community were of draft age than those surveyed at Valley, and only two of those responding that the draft should be reinstated were between 18-26.

'Sheriff'

continued from page 2

A majority of the funds will be distributed to unincorporated areas and all cities within Los Angeles County. With a minimum allocation of \$500,000 to each jurisdiction, the remaining funds will be equally distributed based on population percentage. Five percent of the funds will be allocated to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, the report said.

Because of the distribution-by-jurisdiction-and-allocation plan, Student Trustee Stacey McMullen was in opposition of the sheriff's proposed tax initiative.

"He [Baca] does not qualify for that at all because he is not a first responder to the target areas in Southern California," said McMullen. "As far as getting funding, there's already billions of dollars in federal grant money for Homeland Security."

McMullen added that she would have given support if the Los Angeles Police Department had proposed the tax initiative instead of Sheriff Baca, "The LAPD has more jurisdiction."

Pointing out further problems with the tax initiative, McMullen said, "As we all know, the only way to get out of a budget deficit is to cut spending and raise taxes. Although Schwarzenegger is promising no new taxes, that's not always going to be the reality. The fact is, we are going to face more taxes."

The Board supports the current initiative petition effort to put a measure on the November ballot for voter approval. This tax increase will require a 2-3 vote in November. The first step would be to get enough signatures on the petition to get the initiative on the ballot, and then there will be a campaign according to Field.

"The Sheriff believes that the one-half cent sales tax will put law enforcement in L. A. County on the right fiscal track; this is long overdue and it's necessary," said Sheriff Baca's spokesman Steve Whitmore. Whitmore added that it would benefit the LACCD because the neighborhoods will be safer as well as the colleges. "It's a little pain for a lot of game."

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'Rental'

continued from page 1

spend close to \$500 on textbooks this semester.

"I couldn't believe my books cost so much," Vose said. "I probably could've bought a used car for the money I spent on textbooks."

"Students have to do this precarious tightrope act," Vose said. "They have to balance rising tuition costs with the ridiculous textbook costs... it's hard to remain poised."

In the past two decades, the price of textbooks has soared. According to the National Association of College Stores, wholesale college textbook prices has gone up 35.1 percent since 1998, more than double the increase in other goods and services except for food and

energy, which rose 17.13 percent during that period.

The CALPIRG report said that with college costs at an all-time high and the lack of financial aid programs available, education is getting hard for many students to afford. The report also said that expensive textbooks increase the strain on students' already tight budgets.

"We have many poor students and many middle-class students who don't qualify for financial aid," said Nancy Pearlman, trustee member of the Los Angeles Community Colleges. "They are on limited budgets and will be unable to pay for an education."

Proponents like CALPIRG argue that by eliminating the high costs of buying textbooks, more students would be likely to have the required course materi-

als.

"Colleges and universities should consider implementing rental programs similar to those at several universities in Wisconsin and Illinois," according to the CALPIRG report. "Students would rent books similar to the way they are shared in K-12, but the students would pay a fee that covers the cost of the books."

There are disadvantages to this program, though. Students would still be required to purchase 'supplementary material' like manuals, workbooks, and CDs. Also, faculty may be limited in their choice of course material because textbooks must typically be used 4-6 semesters for a rental system to work according to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Black and Gold Commission team,

which already has a textbook rental program in service.

"Textbook renting in theory seems like a good idea," said business major, Anthony Rodriguez. "But I don't see how it would be feasible at this campus."

He argued that the initial costs for establishing a textbook rental service would be very high and that it's unlikely the school would find ways to squeeze money out of its tight budget.

According to Igor Kagan, the Associated Student Union commissioner of political affairs, the cost of implementing such a program would inevitably fall back upon the students.

"I believe Paul Koretz wrote this bill with good intentions, unfortunately the bill itself isn't very friendly to students once

you read it," Kagan said.

"While it is designed to lower what students spend on textbooks, it ultimately puts another burden on students in terms of an extra fee," said Kagan.

According to Kagan the bill does not specify exactly how money will be raised for the initial costs of starting the rental library "but it does say clearly that the state will not pick up the tab. This means that either funding will be taken from already existing programs or students will have to pay for it."

Still many students are interested in this program.

"I see this program" as a positive thing for students," sociology major, Rachel Lasine said. "Anything that allows a student to save money should be perceived as a good thing."



GABY ALONSO / VALLEY STAR

THIS PINATA HITS BACK - Piñata Lazer cuts deep in Qtopia performance.

'Concerts'

continued from page 4

his lisp-ridden 12-year-old voice, speaking of his first concert experience and his joy of playing in Los Angeles. The short dialogue led to new tracks including "Float On" and "Bukowski," featuring Brock screaming at the top of his lungs, "Who would want to be such a control freak," hitting ol' Charles on the head. Soon-to-be favorites "Bury Me With It" and "The World at Large" had the crowd dancing and cheering as the show closed with "Cowboy Dan" from "The Lonesome Crowded West."

the small garage in Oregon to satisfy crowds across the states, especially the awe-struck Music Box crowd. The Helio Sequence can bet that fans are anxiously awaiting their soon-to-be released third album.

Headliner Modest Mouse balanced their set with new tracks from "Good News For People Who Love Bad News," and fan favorites like "Paper Thin Walls." The group kept the familiar sounds coming with hits like "Doin' the Cockroach," and the beautiful cello delivery of

"Interstate 8," as well as sing-a-longs from "The Moon and Antarctica."

Isaac Brock regaled the crowd with humorous tales in his lisp-ridden 12-year-old voice, speaking of his first concert experience and his joy of playing in Los Angeles. The short dialogue led to new tracks including "Float On" and "Bukowski," featuring Brock screaming at the top of his lungs, "Who would want to be such a control freak," hitting ol' Charles on the head. Soon-to-be favorites "Bury Me With It" and "The World at Large" had the crowd dancing and cheering as the show closed with "Cowboy Dan" from "The Lonesome Crowded West."

The 10-minute extended version of "Cowboy Dan" may herald the end of obscurity for this indie-rock secret.

Piñata Lazer

Arts and Action

26 March 2004

By KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Piñata Lazer will heat up a club in within two songs, spawning a bona fide frenzy with

consistent, continuous measures in songs like "Interrogation Rights" and "House Thrash." This beast of a band, with Kdawg on vocals, guitarists Mike Meanstreetz and Gimme Cum, bassist Juice Rubbzz and drummer Handz On, can pull together as quickly as they break down—there are no graduals.

This is not your typical metal, punk, thrash or hardcore band. Piñata Lazer refuses to be boxed into a genre, which makes perfect sense since the sound they create is a boundary-busting cacophony you won't find on any radio station or TV channel.

Still, without the pre-cut bow and wrap, Piñata Lazer's sound is a worthy gift for jaded ears. Showgoers love the fierce bedlam that this Reseda quintet brings to the table; the two groups emit the same perpetual energy from the first break-neck second to the very last.

"It's an honest feeling," said singer Kdawg, adding that they play to "stir up the spirits."

The guys have a true relationship with their audience. "We want to see people moving," explains Kdawg, which is probably why they get such a good response.

Although the PL monster is barely two years old, the collective experience of the band members is much greater. "And there's still a lot to go," warns Kdawg.

Piñata Lazer looks to take their do-it-yourself mission even farther—The band has already played seven shows since January, spanning from Moorpark to East L.A., including Friday night's gig at Arts in Action with Lux Nova. To find out more check out the Piñata Lazer website at www.geocities.com/diybigworlds/pinatalazer.htm.

'Trial'

continued from page 4

choice that sometimes enhances Kafka's story and sometimes detracts from it. Whereas the production's bells and whistles are very effective when K finds himself in a room full of fellow 'criminals' at the end of the first act, they sometimes seem at odds with Kafka's dark and foreboding tone. For instance, they distract from his logical and emotional arc when K seeks information from a connected painter in a long, rambling scene or when he argues his case after an ill-defined progression in the second act. Rather than conveying totalitarianism, isolation or paranoia, when the circus comes to town it sometimes just conveys clowns and jugglers.

Some of the actors seemed more comfortable with the style than others. Jonathan Ginsburg's Inspector hit the right note of condescension and menace with his Snidely Whiplash moustache and golf club. Wil Bowers made bold transitions between four prominent roles. Matthew St. James' Elegant Man caught the timing precisely and Sabra Malkinson's Laundress embodied the show's duplicitous, serpentine view of female sexuality. Trader Selkirk's disturbing drag turn as K's landlady, Mrs. Grubach, is easily the funniest thing in the show ("This arrest of yours," she says, "there's almost something learned about it ... Something no one understands.")

Where the production stumbles, however, as in the lengthy

scene in which the painter, Titorelli, provides K with supposed help, its lack of musicality and dynamic levels takes the show right off the rails and makes it difficult to get back on. Some of the characterizations such as Soroka's less-successful turn as the Advocate in act two, are too large and broad to keep K's struggle real. These elements, combined with the worst effects of the style and movement, flatten K's arc, making it difficult for us to connect with the game Goodman in the lead role. Were his emotional and intellectual journey—from-denial-through-anger and bargaining-to-surrender more palpable, this "Trial" would be more compelling.

Kafka's novel is, in large part, about the capitulation of the average person to the damning expectations of society. Its railroading of the protagonist into destruction is turned into a fun house ride by Bates-Buyukturkoglu, to varying degrees of success. Despite an overreaching coda, Write Act's nearly three-hour production is a must for Kafka fans and has plenty of rewards for those looking for imaginative and intellectually-charged theatre.

"The Trial" runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday from March 18 to May 1. The Write Act Theatre is at 6128 Yucca Street in Hollywood; free parking is available. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students, seniors and groups). No performances Easter weekend. For information please call (323) 860-8894 or visit www.writeactrep.org.

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* and the debut of the Valley Star's new literary journalism section, **THE BACK PAGE**

'Smokers'

continued from page 1

will carry it a step further from the initial contact and do an instant report for the campus and report it to student services."

Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, said that at least three students have been suspended for non-smoking area violations.

"Sometimes, when we bring a student in, they are remorseful, sometimes they are not," said Delahoussaye. "That is how we determine how many days they are going to be suspended for. For this type of violation it's normally a one-to-three day suspension. If they are caught smoking something more than a cigarette, that can be a semester suspension, possibly a two-semester suspension."

According to administrators, who field most of the complaints along with the Sheriff's Department, the area with the most violations is outside the humanities building, under the arcade where the picnic tables and vending machines are.

Students who are between classes seem to gravitate to this area, possibly because of the picnic tables where friends can find adequate seating to hang out, have a snack or soda and a smoke.

"I smoke even though it says no smoking," said student Chichy Yayo who catches a puff outside the humanities building between classes, much to the dismay of some of his pals.

"When [the police] see me, they tell me to put it out and I do. I guess because I don't get out of hand with them, I cooperate and put it out, they don't bug me," said Yayo. "But I keep doing it."

One student who happens to be an ex-smoker said he hates smokers.

"I think it's cool to smoke, but I think it's even cooler not to smoke," said Raz Zaouk, who is confined to a wheelchair. "It seems like I'm always downwind of someone who is smoking and

[they] just stand there right under the no smoking signs and smoke."

After a meeting of the Work and Space Committee, it was decided that the campus should try to make the designated smoking areas as accessible and comfortable as possible to accommodate students. The funds to purchase and install the 10 new ashtrays, benches and signs were supplied by the campus' unrestricted funds and totaled nearly \$5,000, according to Vice President of Administration, Tom Jacobsmeyer.

"We are not a non-smoking campus and we've gone to great lengths to accommodate those who do," said Jacobsmeyer. "But the rules are constantly being broken."

"This is a touchy issue that comes and goes. I'm not sure if it will ever be perfect unless we say this is a [completely] no-smoking campus. We are trying to accommodate all students. If smokers have a problem with this, they are welcome to address the Work and Space Committee to voice their opinions or ideas."

Chair of the Work and Space Committee Pat Calder said the campus has been dealing with this issue for several years and has never wanted to hit students with the idea that this is a no-smoking campus. However, they would like students to comply and smoke where they should.

"We have not been able to make it clear to students that they have a designated area in which to smoke where they won't get flack from anybody," said Calder. "These areas are where you should smoke, away from doors and classrooms where there are people with allergies or asthma or other breathing difficulties. For some people, walking into a cloud of smoke could be a matter of life and death."

Smokers are welcome to address this issue with the Work and Space Committee, which welcomes suggestions in regard to solving this continuing problem.

'Wieder'

continued from page 1

junction with the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women.

Council member Wendy Greuel nominated Wieder not only for her efforts on campus but throughout the community.

"Dr. Tyree Wieder has touched many lives and made many dreams possible for the thousands of students that have attended Los Angeles Community Colleges," said council member Wendy Greuel. "Her tireless work and dedication empowers the students and makes her more than deserving to receive the Pioneer Woman of the Year Award."

According to Greuel, Wieder has a distinguished record of community involvement, having served as chairperson of the Board of Directors for Northridge Hospital Medical Center, the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley and is co-chair of its Education and Workforce Development Initiative Committee. She also is managing the construction and renovation of Valley College.

"It was very gracious of Council member Greuel to recommend me to the Commission on the Status of Women and they were gracious enough to accept me and honor me with the recognition," Wieder said. "I was very humbled by the other nominees and their work in the community. They were just outstanding."

The Pioneer Women Award was created in 1989 to recognize the accomplishments of women in the city of Los Angeles and is held in March each year as part of Women's History Month. Nominees can be women in the community from high school through retirement age.

Nominees must live or work in the district; contribute to improving the community in areas of education, business, sports, arts, science, health or government; exhibit participation or excellence in nontraditional fields and involvement in philanthropic endeavors or have performed acts of courage.

"Wendy [Greuel] chose Tyree because she's such a strong female leader," said Tracey Chavira, a spokeswoman in Greuel's office.

'Taxes'

continued from page 1

of money and you don't owe any taxes, the credits will not help you. In this case, you may want to have your parents claim you as a dependent so they can take advantage of the credit for doing so. However, if, for example, you're making \$10,000 per year and your parents make too much money to take a credit, you should take it, H&R Block's Bryant said.

Student Loans

Student loans, grants and scholarships are tax-free, and the interest you pay on student loans is tax-deductible.

Free Help

If you're feeling overwhelmed by all the numbers and jargon, you may be able to get some free assistance. The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program offers free tax advice and help preparing a tax return to people who make less than \$35,000 per year. The local IRS offices offer the same service. VITA sites are staffed by trained volunteers and are located throughout the community. You can find the near-

est VITA site by calling (800) 829-1040. The Van Nuys office of the IRS is located at 6230 Van Nuys Blvd. and the phone number is (818) 756-4607. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

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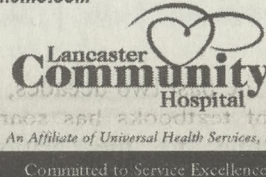
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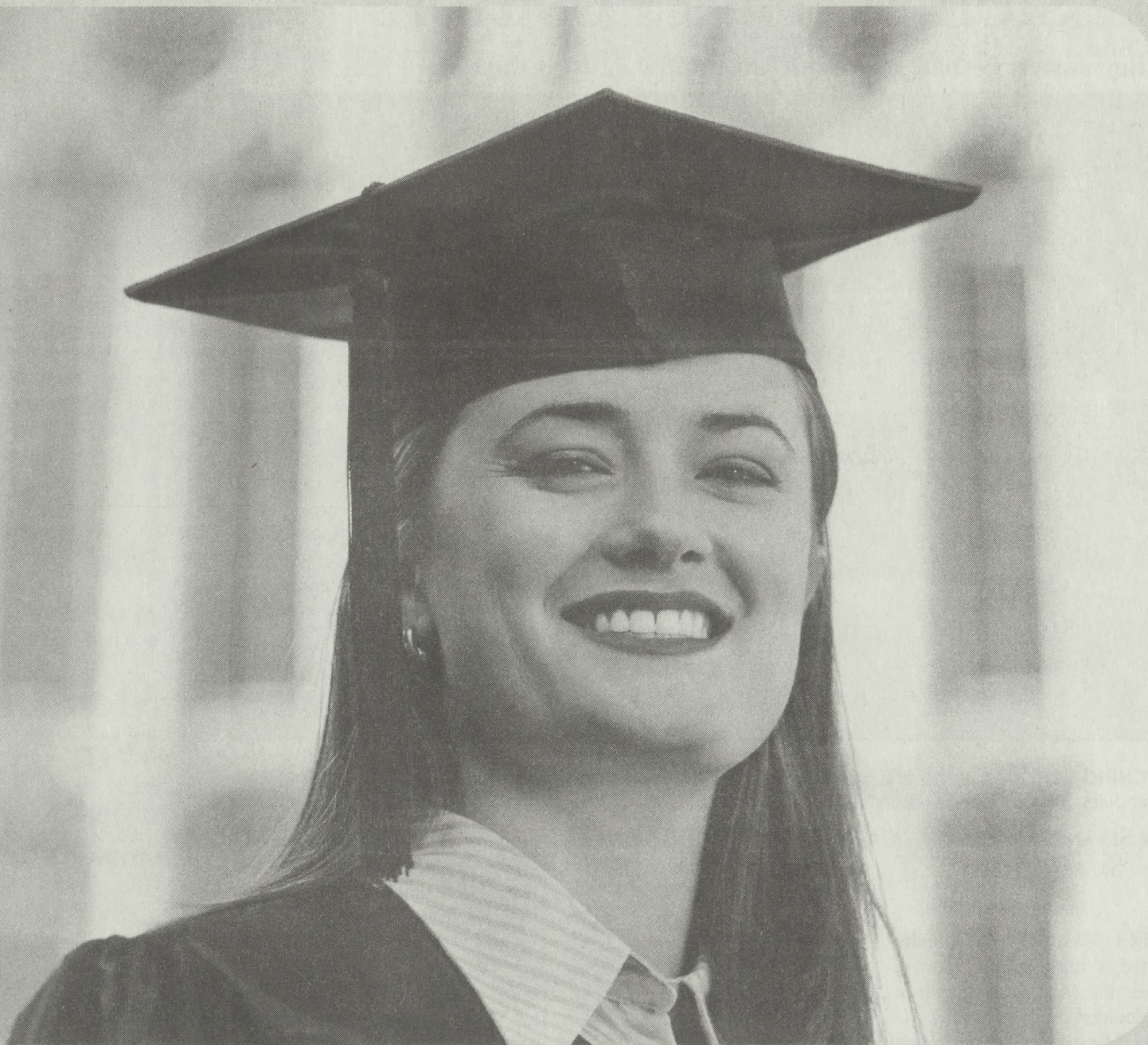
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LAVC SCORES

Baseball @ Mission
(W 12-5) 3/27/04
Baseball Record: 1-22
Softball vs. Mission
(W 6-5) 3/25/04
Softball Record: 10-3, 7-6

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/31/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 4/1/04
Softball @ Bakersfield 3 p.m.
Friday 4/2/04
Track @ WSC #4 2 p.m.
Swim vs. Santa Monica* 2:30 p.m.
Saturday 4/3/04
Baseball @ Mission 1 p.m.
Sunday 4/4/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 4/5/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 4/6/04
Softball @ Citrus 1 p.m.**
Wednesday 4/7/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 4/8/04
Softball vs. Santa Monica 2:30 p.m.
Friday 4/9/04
Softball @ Long Beach City TBA
Baseball @ Santa Barbara 1 p.m.***
Swim vs. Cuesta 2:30 p.m.*
Saturday 4/10/04
Softball @ Long Beach City TBA
Sunday 4/11/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 4/12/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 4/13/04
Softball @ Canyons 1 p.m.**
Wednesday 4/14/04
Swim vs. Canyons 2:30 p.m.*

*WSC Meet
**WSC Gold Division
***Non-Conference Game

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. Utah Jazz
(W 91-84) 3/28/04
Kobe Bryant: 34 pts, 6 rb, 4 ast
Karl Malone: 19 pts, 13 rb, 9-12 ft
Gary Payton: 17 pts, 3 rb, 3 ast
LAL Record: 50-23, Second Place West. Conf.
L.A. Clippers @ G.S. Warriors
(L 77-105) 3/28/04
Corey Maggette: 21 pts, 7 rb, 4-6 ft
Elton Brand: 19 pts, 5 rb, 3 ast
Eddie House: 4 pts, 7 ast, 2 rb
LAC Record: 27-48
L.A. Kings @ Colorado Avalanche
(L 1-2) 3/29/04
LAK Record: 28-27-16-8, 80

NOTES

NBA
Sources close to the Philadelphia 76er's indicate that guard Allen Iverson may be finished for the season due to cartilage damage in his right knee. Philly has eight games left and is three games behind the Boston Celtics for the final spot in the Eastern Conference.

NBA
Former Houston Rockets guard Calvin Murphy was released on \$90,000 after surrendering to authorities on charges accusing him of sexually abusing five of his daughters more than a decade ago.

NBA
TNT analyst and former NBA star Charles Barkley was inducted into the Phoenix Suns' Ring of Honor March 20 at America West Arena. Barkley spent four years (1992-1996) in Phoenix, taking the Suns to the NBA Finals in his 1993 MVP season with a franchise record 62 wins.

NBA
Debris in the firing mechanism of the shotgun of former New Jersey Nets star Jayson Williams could have caused it to fire without the trigger being pulled, a weapons expert told the jury at his manslaughter trial Monday.

NBA
Chicago Bulls center Tyson Chandler was suspended for one game by the league for throwing a punch at Atlanta Hawks forward Michael Bradley Saturday.

NHL
Toronto Maple Leafs forward Owen Nolan will be sidelined up to three weeks because of a knee injury sustained in a tie against the Ottawa Senators Saturday. Nolan was injured when he checked Senators center Bryan Smolinski.

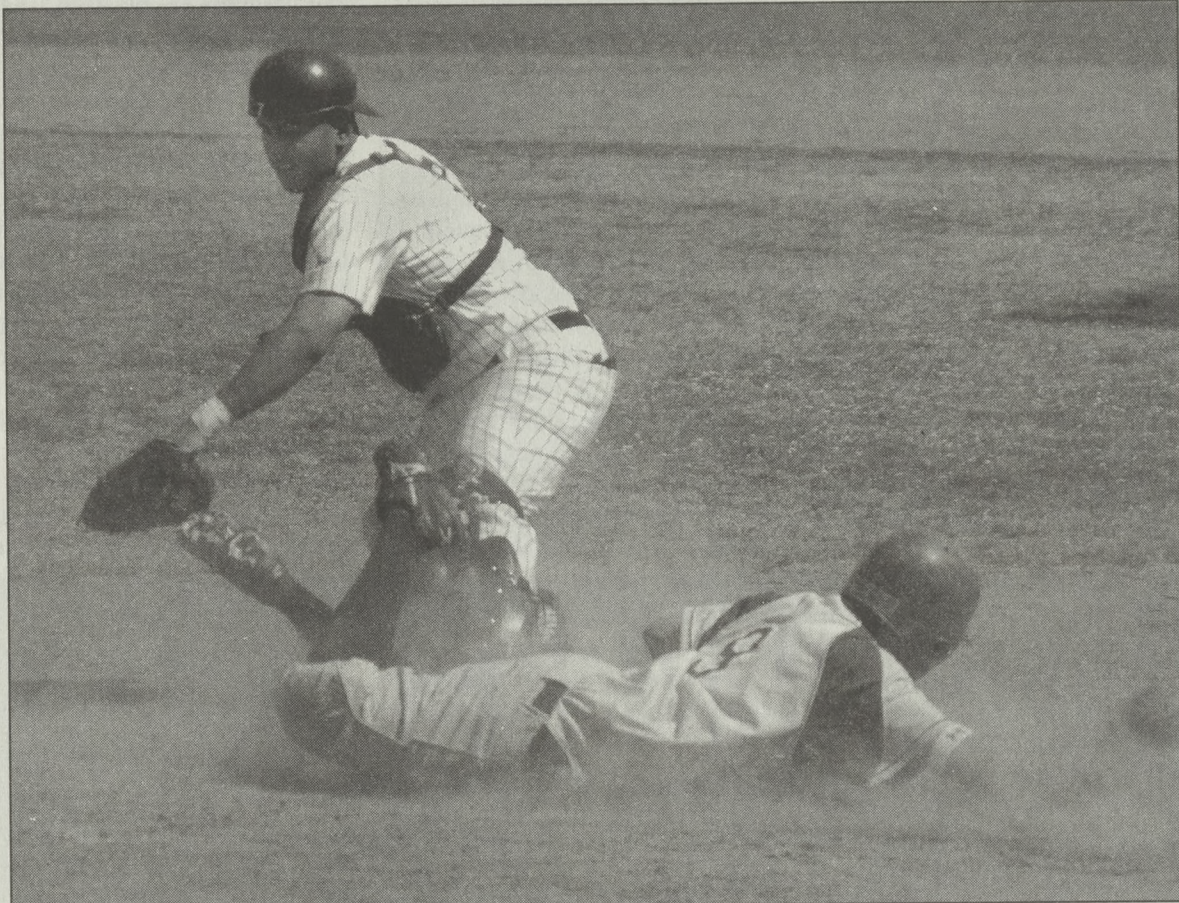
NHL
Mike Babcock of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and Tom Renney of the New York Rangers will be part of Canada's coaching staff at the world championships. Babcock, in his second season with Anaheim, led the Ducks to the Stanley Cup finals last spring.

MLB
Tampa Bay Devil Rays first baseman Tino Martinez hit his 300th homerun in Tokyo, Japan Tuesday in the season opening 8-3 victory against the New York Yankees.

MLB
Tampa Bay Devil Rays general manager Chuck LaMar was given a two-year contract extension Monday despite having six straight last place-finishes.

WSC BASEBALL

Eagles Shot Down, Monarchs End Skid



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

TAKING HOME - Catcher Jose Carrillo of Mission College missed Abel Pulido as he slid into home to score. This is the Monarchs' first win dating back to March 8, 2003.

BASEBALL

Los Angeles Valley College - Western State Conference
BOX SCORE vs. Mission College Eagles - March 27, 2004
Sylmar, CA

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
L.A. VALLEY	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	12	12	2
MISSION	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	5	10	2

■ Offensive explosion propels Monarchs to first win of the season.

By SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

March 8, 2003... the last time Valley baseball won. One year, 19 days and 38 games later, the Monarchs did it again with a 12-4 victory over the Mission Eagles who dropped 11-2 in conference and 14-6 overall on the road Saturday.

"It's good that our players are hanging in there," said Head Coach Chris Johnson. "That's all I want from the team. If they hang in there and keep going, we'll be fine."

Valley may have hit bottom last week with a 25-6 drubbing at College of the Canyons that left players and coaches questioning the character of the team. During the following scheduled bye week, Johnson's daughter sustained an injury in a softball game that required hospitalization (broken ankle), further complicating matters for the beleaguered coach. The team responded to the adversity by ripping into first-place Mission for their highest-scoring game of the season.

The Monarchs (1-22 overall and 1-12 in conference) crushed the erstwhile high-flying Eagles as starting pitcher Chris Zakosek gave up just four runs in 6 2/3 innings and was spot-on with 72 percent of his pitches for strikes.

"I can't even describe it,"

said a thrilled Zakosek after the game. "This was an amazing win for us. Everybody did a hell of a job today ... backing me up and providing for us offensively."

Valley took out a season's worth of frustration on Mission starter Jose De La Rosa in the third as the Monarchs sent ten batters to the plate and amassed four runs on five hits, a sacrifice fly and an error.

The Monarch offensive unit left their mark on four Eagle pitchers, capping their field day off with back to back home runs in the top of the seventh by right fielder Amador Galvez and first baseman Sergio Garcia.

Left-fielder Erick Perez and shortstop Abel Pulido also contributed as Perez collected two hits while Pulido finished with three hits and one RBI.

The Eagles wilted before Valley's offensive onslaught, padding their totals with three meaningless runs in the seventh when they were already down by eight.

The crowd was a big factor throughout the game as fans and players alike from both colleges exchanged cheers and jeers.

"The season has been just a drag... up to this point. We came into this game knowing that Mission had just lost," said Pulido. "We wanted to come in and sneak out with a win today."

WSC SOFTBALL

Monarch Comeback Puts Mission In Bad Position

■ Valley answers a bad start with a dramatic rally at the end.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

STRETCHING OUT - Monarchs' first baseman Alexandra Velasquez stretches out to get the ball while Eagle infielder Julia Jimenez tries to reach first base Thursday at Valley College in a 6-5 victory.

By SEVAN GHAZARYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs collected a hard-fought victory, 5-4 over the Mission Eagles in a game decided on the last play.

The Mission Eagles came out looking sharp, taking a 1 - 0 first inning lead with a steal and two base hits off Valley's ace pitcher, Amanda Salazar.

The Lady Monarchs answered the challenge and tied the game in the second as shortstop Christie Sotelo stole her way into scoring position and cashed in on a throwing error by Mission's first baseman Sandy Reyes. Valley picked up another run in the third on a wild pitch and one more in the fourth when

center fielder Alma Palacios drove in left fielder Sandra Chavez.

"We lost a double header last week and the girls have a tendency to come back on their feet," said coach Frankie Garcia.

This proved to be the case as Salazar shut out the -Eagles for the next four innings. She walked two batters with one out in the sixth. Mission outfielder Jenna Puetz drove in third baseman Joanna Salas and Mission pitcher Julia Jimenez scored on an error by Valley, which took the game to the final frame with the Monarchs down 5-4.

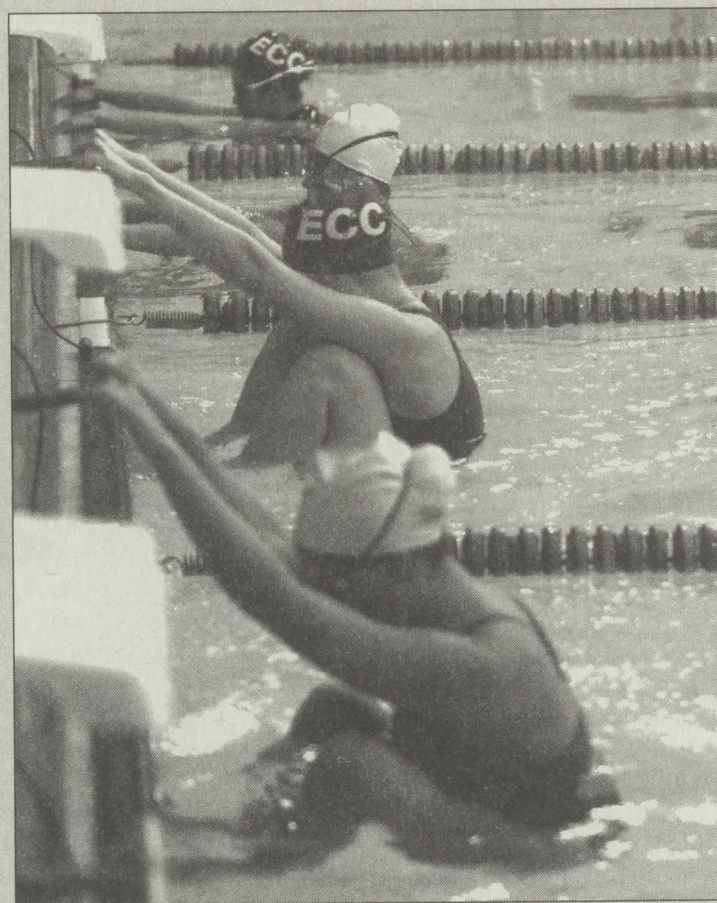
In the bottom of the seventh, Valley third baseman Deyssy Esquivel reached second on an error to begin the decisive rally. Chavez picked her up and

reached third on two throwing errors. Right fielder Heather Bates laid down a perfect bunt to drive in the run and notch the victory.

"We came through at the end," said coach Frankie Garcia as Valley moved up to a 10-11 record (7-4 conference) and knocked Mission down to 4-8 in the conference.

Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
BYE	4/1	n/a
@ Citrus*	4/6	1 p.m.
Santa Monica*	4/8	2:30 p.m.
LBCC Tourn.	4/9-10	TBA
@ Canyons*	4/13	1 p.m.
Bakersfield	4/15	2:30 p.m.
*Gold Division Game		



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

AT THE START - Swimmers prepare to start their competition at a non-conference meet in El Camino College March 24.

Men Doubled Up; Women Win by an Ankle

■ Women earn Valley a split at Torrance meet.

By SEVAN GHAZARYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College women's swim team stole the competition Wednesday as the men had their hands full with the powerful El Camino College team in Torrance.

The men won only the first of the 15 competitions of the day, the 200 yard medley relay. They ended up getting drubbed to the tune of 83.00 - 41.00.

Meanwhile the women racked up wins in nine of the 15 contests, with Sammy Zuckerman winning the 50, 100 and the 200 yard freestyles. Lauren Stanley, meanwhile,

took first in diving for Valley with 168.45.

Valley diver Skylar Lenox, who injured her left ankle in an accident at home, managed to contribute enough to help her team edge the El Camino women overall, 69.00 - 62.00.

"I did horribly; it didn't feel right. I had my ankle wrapped up and it just wasn't flexible enough," said Lenox after she came in third place in diving with a score of 147.30.

"Surprisingly, we did great, considering we didn't have one of our best swimmers out there," said coach Conrad. "Sklar came back and dove well. We could always be a little faster but we are improving."

SPORTS

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Basketball Coach Steps Down

[Muro, from page 1]

His calm demeanor resonated with coworkers and players alike. Syreeta Coleman, the Lady Monarchs' all-state guard, has a strong admiration of his interpersonal skills, as well as his talent as a coach.

"He's one of the nicest people you could know," Coleman said. "When you have a problem, he's the one to call. Regardless of the situation, Mike is there for anything."

Coleman recalled how his coaching duties went beyond "Come in, coach for an hour, then leave." She said that his ability to connect with his players on a one-to-one basis made everyone feel like part of a family.

"There's no doubt that he's a player's coach," Coleman said. "Mike devoted so much of his personal time with us on and off the court, making each player on the team feel like they counted."

Aside from his coaching duties and time in the computer industry, Muro spends time at home with his 18-year-old daughter Terra.

"She's great," Muro said of Terra. "If I do something dumb, she's the first to let me know."

Chuck Ferrero, Valley's athletic director, said, "He did an excellent job with the team every year he was here. His ability to work with women athletes was unique; you can't find that anywhere."

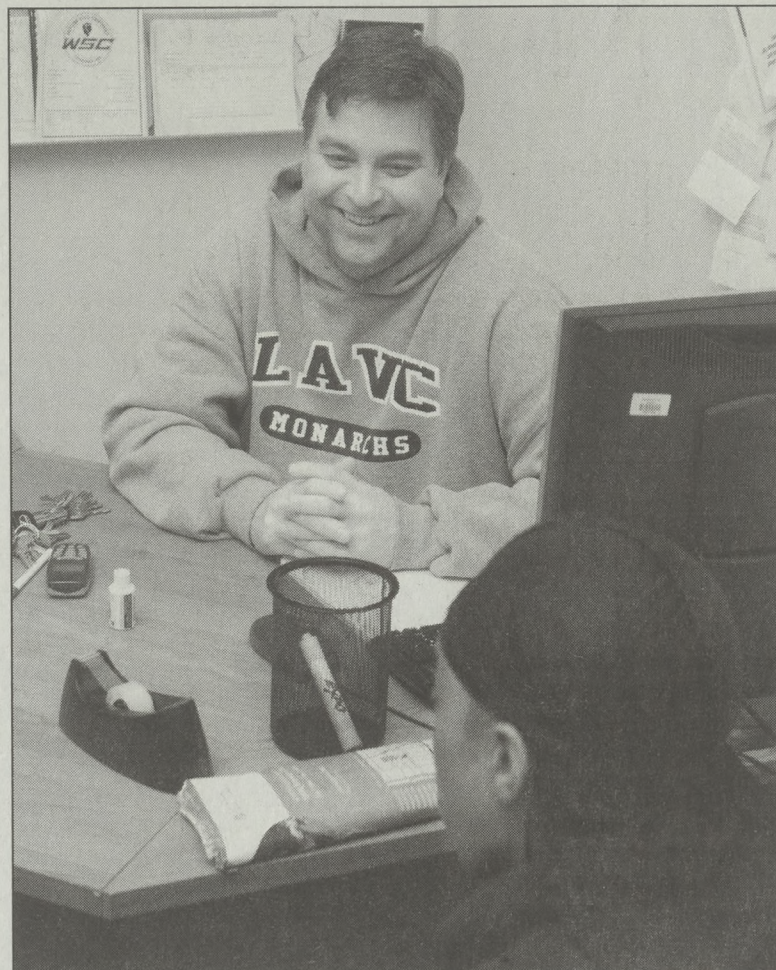
"Mike took the time to analyze and break down his opponent's game play and shared that information with his players in such a way that it worked to their advantage game after game."

Prior to his four seasons as head coach, Muro spent five years as an assistant to John Taylor, his former teammate at Polytechnic High School. In the 1994-1995 season, Muro's first under Taylor, the Lady Monarchs went 10-0 in conference action.

"They had a certain confidence about them that was obvious when they came out to play," he said of the team.

Muro's first season as the head man was 2000-2001, and the Lady Monarchs had a sparkling 23-12 record overall. They finished second in the Western State Conference Southern Section, and made it to the second round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs.

Dale Beck, current sports information director and basketball



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

OFF THE CLOCK - Women's basketball coach Mike Muro takes time to discuss the season with guard Syreeta Coleman March 1.

announcer from 1995-2003, recalled how Muro's professionalism and attitude made for an excellent work environment. He described Muro as serious about his work from day one.

"Watching Mike and John Taylor in practice working together, the two were just fantastic with the ladies," Beck said. "They weren't just sideline coaches. They were involved with every aspect of the game, 100 percent. Having Mike become head coach was just a natural progression."

The Lady Monarchs amassed an impressive 101-36 overall record with Muro in charge, including a 32-4 conference record in the last three years. The women went to the California State Championship Elite Eight tournament in 2002 and 2003, winning Western State

Conference titles both years.

Taking over the reins from Muro will be assistant coach Ruth Seja, herself a former state MVP and post player with the Monarchs from 1987-1989.

"She's going to do well, there's no doubt about it," Muro said of Seja. "She's a great motivator and she understands the girls better than most people do."

Muro's final game was at Valley Feb. 27 in an opening round playoff loss to Cypress College 74-65. Despite the unwelcome outcome, he looks back on his time with the Monarchs as a great experience.

"I'm always going to be a Monarch," Muro said. "I'll be around to support them when I can, but I know they'll be fine. I wish them all the best and bid them godspeed."

Former Football Coach Tackling Leukemia

■ Family of Jim Fenwick holds a much-needed blood drive in Granada Hills.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Former Valley football coach Jim Fenwick, who amassed an impressive record of 49-14-1 in five seasons (1992-97), is in dire need of bone marrow transplant after being diagnosed with Leukemia last November.

After Fenwick left Valley, he led the CSUN Matadors to a 4-4 big sky conference record and 6-6 overall in just one season. He is now coaching in his second season at Eastern Oregon University.

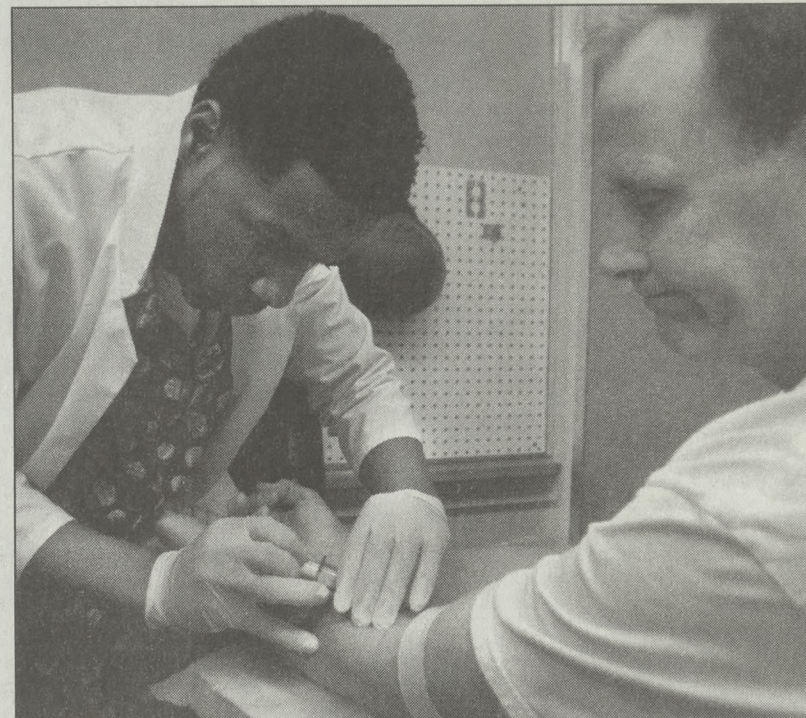
"His record speaks for itself," said Valley Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero who has been talking to Fenwick after learning about the diagnosis. "He took our football program to five bowl games." Ferrero added that Fenwick was a great addition to Valley College.

Diagnosed in late November of last year, Fenwick has been told to stay indoors in order to avoid all types of germs that could be harmful.

"You get worn down," explained Fenwick on staying home all the time. "You get frustrated ... but I'm trying to stay busy and hoping for something positive to come up."

When asked how the family reacted to the news, Fenwick's son Tyler said the diagnosis was very unexpected. "It was a pretty big shock early on. You don't think it would happen to your family, but it did."

Tyler also expressed his gratitude for all the calls and support



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

HELPING OUT - Valley College athletic director Chuck Ferrero, right, gives blood at a drive for former football coach Jim Fenwick March 27 in Granada Hills. Fenwick was diagnosed with Leukemia in November.

his family has received from his father's former colleagues.

A blood and bone marrow testing clinic was set up in Granada Hills at Patrick Henry Middle School Saturday. Headed by Fenwick's sister Cindy Cooper, the clinic was open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as a testing ground for individuals who wished to be possible candidates in donating their bone marrow.

"We have about three million registered donors around the world," stated Fenwick's father Leon. "We had possible donors in Taiwan, Germany, Canada and

also Australia. They're not certain matches, but the similarities are quite evident."

The clinic brought together individuals from different walks of life, including football players from Pierce and Occidental colleges.

Media outlets Fox and ABC sent camera crews to cover the event as many people from throughout the community walked in to get tested and show their support.

For more information, or to register to be tested as a possible donor, please call the Red Cross Hotline at 1-800-922-3998.

AN OPINION



The Theory of Sports Relativity

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*"Taking steroids is like pretending to be handicapped at the Special Olympics. If you take steroids, you're just a big p*****; you should be taken out of the record books because you're a great big p*****."*

- Jimmy, on "South Park"

In 1961, Roger Maris just edged Babe Ruth's single season home run record by hitting 61 for the New York Yankees. Because he played a 163-game season, or eight more than Ruth, then-Commissioner Ford Frick ordered that Maris' record should be listed in the books with an asterisk (*). It wasn't until 1991 - eight years after Maris' death from cancer - that the horsehide pooh-bahs finally had the * removed. (To be precise, there never was an actual * by the record; baseball historians dodged this by listing the records separately.)

Strangely, when Mark McGwire obliterated that standard with 70 dingers in 1998, there was little, if any, talk of an * for the new record - even though McGwire played in an era of rabbit balls, tiny ballparks, watered-down pitching, historic power numbers throughout baseball and the specter of steroids.

Now there are questions about recently set records, especially Barry Bonds' mark of 73 homers in 2001. Should Bonds' career be branded with an * if it turns out that he took illegal performance-enhancing drugs?

Sure, as long as we do the same to every statistical achievement since he came into the league.

To fairly impugn Bonds' accomplishment, one would have to establish that no other player had the same advantages as he did, or at least that very few did. Assuming he was on the juice - which has not been proven and which he has consistently denied - there's still the small problem that any number of major leaguers may be on any number of performance-enhancing substances.

Not that José Canseco is anyone's Oracle of Delphi, but in his much-ballyhooed and already-forgotten autobiography, he claimed that 90 percent of major leaguers were on 'roids. Fellow golem Ken Caminiti made similar, but less outlandish, claims.

What's important is that Bonds has blown away the field for 15 years and especially the last four seasons. He has won three straight MVP awards (six overall) and had better statistics than the man who just edged him the year before the streak began - then-teammate Jeff Kent, whose stats were heavily influenced by batting next to Bonds in the lineup.

No disrespect to Kent, but Bonds has completely changed the game without guys like Lou Gehrig or any of the other twelve Hall of Famers that Ruth had around him during his glorious years with the Yankees. And Bonds very rarely gets pitched to at any time, in any situation. When NL managers see him in their dreams, they walk him.

Sports records are impossible to compare over eras because the game and the level of the athletes evolve. Does anyone really think even Ruth's 1927 Murderer's Row Yankees could hold a candle to today's best teams? What matters

is what you do against your contemporaries, and no one comes close to Bonds' dominance over the last several seasons, not even the amazing Alex Rodriguez.

If you want to put *s on records that should be qualified, how about slapping them on any major league stats before the sport was integrated? Sure, Ruth, Gehrig and company racked up incredible numbers - against the best white players around. How radically would the entire statistical landscape have been changed if those same hitters had to deal with the likes of Satchel Paige or those pitchers had to face Josh Gibson?

If any modern records need *s, they're the statistics coming out of Colorado's Coors Field, in which the club-footed old lady from "Triplets of Belleville" could collect a .330-30-100 year. You want proof? How many guys have had better years after leaving Coors than while they played there? Ask Jeffrey Hammonds. Or Dante Bichette. Or Neifi Perez, et alia. Even quality players like Todd Helton can post slugging percentages more than 100 points lower out of the rarified air.

If Bonds is proven guilty of using illegal performance-enhancing drugs, he's a cheating scumbag whose accomplishments will forever be tainted in the eyes of the fans. But sports records are relative to their eras. To pretend that absolute values can be attached to them for comparison would be as shortsighted and dunderheaded as thinking that the sport doesn't need revenue sharing and a salary cap. Now those folks are walking asterisks (Stupid ***** jerks!).



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GALLERY



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

MONARCH PRIDE-Cilo Hidalgo, Jr. has been cheering for the Monarchs football, basketball and baseball home games for the past nine years.

MONARCH SPIRIT

Born in Panorama City, 32-year-old Ciló Hidalgo, Jr. has attended Valley College since 1995.

Hidalgo is a true Monarch and has a passionate toward all of Valley's teams, especially the football, basketball and baseball teams.

"I remember the 1996 'No Fear Game,'" said Ciló. "We won the basketball championship."

At the age of 14, Ciló had a motorcycle accident that limited his walking abilities. He is a member of the disabled student program. He is taking math, pre-algebra and P. E., in which he plays basketball and practices walking.

Ciló is a very popular Monarch.

"He is the biggest romantic," said ASU Commissioner of Student & Social Affairs Jessie Salas, "He's always hitting on the ladies."



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

PLAYING TIME - Professor Richard E. Holdredge plays with Ciló at the cafeteria on a weekly basis.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

ONE HAND - Ciló plays basketball, one of his favorite sports during his P. E. class at Monarchs' South Gym.

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY JORGE GALLEGOS



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

CLASS IS OVER - Ciló says goodbye to a classmate after finishing his P.E. class.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

KEEPING TRACK - Ciló surfs the Internet searching for Monarchs' latest scores.